# WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 5, NO. 5 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | SEPTEMBER 1994 ■ FREE


"I still believe the only chance for the human race to survive is to give up such pleasures as war, racism,and private profit." Pete Seeger

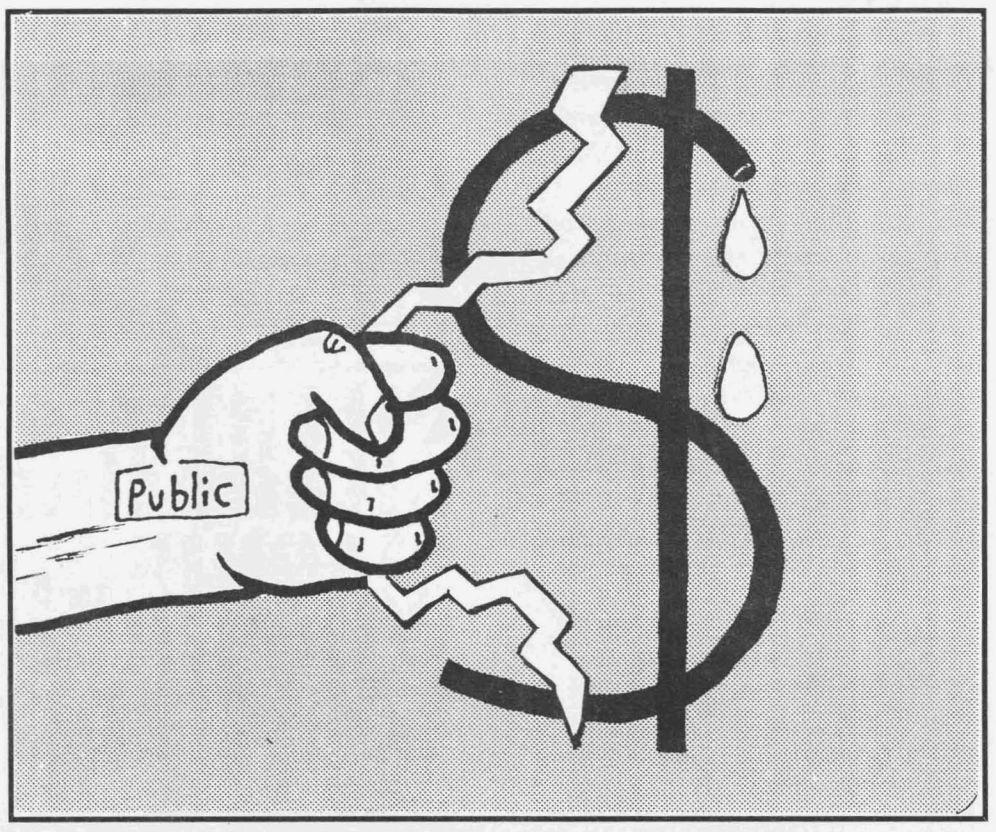
## The Politics of Power and the P.U.D.

**Chris Stearns**

Most residents of Thurston County, when asked, have either no notion of what the P.U.D. here does or what the purpose of a Public Utility is at all. Yet, buried in the hearts and minds of many of our senior citizens lies the knowledge of the purpose of the P.U.D. One can simply ask Rosalie Gittings or Buzz Walker who fought the "good fight" for their creation 30 to 65 years ago.

The fight originated over the initial development of electrical service throughout our state. A majority of the rural counties and several of our state's municipalities struggled to retain sole control over the ownership of their electric service and the rates charged to its citizens. The future economic development, at that time, was at stake for communities both urban and rural in our state. Naturally, there was some well organized opposition to these ideas and this legacy continues up to this very day!

Roosevelt's domestic program in the 30's provided incentives for P.U.D.'s and Municipals to lead the way in the distribution of our state's newly created federal hydro-electric facilities in the Columbia basin. The opposition, with their own interests threatened, had a high level




of anxiety over not having enough of a local market for all that electrical power.

World War II evaporated that concern and sped up completion of the Columbia basin projects that the feds had started. The struggle with the opponents of public power is aptly described in the book "Hail Columbia".

Today, economic development is once again in the forefront of our citizens minds. The problem of how to best distribute the benefits of the information age to create equal opportunity for everyone troubles us. The parallel to the conflict over the same goals of the 30's should not escape us. The P.U.D.'s led the way for the economic development of our rural areas. Today Eastern Washington enjoys the growth of the food processing industry which is this state's second largest manufacturing sector and produces 1/8 of the state's total in value. This would not be possible without access to cheap electicity, which is utilized for freezing and cold storage, an important key to that region's economic success. The question remains what can be done here and how can the P.U.D. be

***One need only to observe the haphazard pattern of growth in our county to deduct that a well managed steady, yet conservative method is the key to sustainable development that benefits everyone.***

best utilized to help provide the groundwork to diversify our own local economy?

Joe Hommel, the former P.U.D. Commissioner for District #3 left our community to take a job in the creation of the information superhighway. I believe that this would be an appropriate direction for us to harness the County's P.U.D.'s future towards to best serve all our citizens. It makes alot of sense to develop our county's best resource, our educated citizenry. This direction would provide the greatest opportunities for our children and attract the better businesses to help diversify our local economy. Information is already part of what State Government does, why not expand that capability to benefit our entire population?

One need only to observe the haphazard pattern of growth in our county to deduct that a well managed steady, yet conservative method is the key to sustainable

(Continued page 15)

# Farmworker Union Election?

**Todd Crosby**

"7 YEARS IS TOO LONG," reads a sign held frequently by picketers at the Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery. The sign refers to the seven year old boycott of U.S. Tobacco owned wines, most notably Chateau Ste. Michelle (CSM). Over seven years ago farm workers employed by CSM asked for a union election to recognize their union, the United Farm Workers (UFW).

One year ago, winery management admitted that over 80% of the farm workers they employ have signed cards authorizing the UFW to represent them. Yet, they still denied farm workers the basic right to a democratic union election; *for seven years.* In recent weeks CSM declared they would like an election, on their terms.

It would seem to be a great victory for farm workers, their supporters, and to all who have heard about the boycott. However, it is merely another public relations ploy by the winery. The election called by CSM management is *not* the same type called by the UFW.

The election called for by CSM would occur out in the fields in front of foreman and supervisors; the same supervisors known for intimidation tactics against workers who have just mentioned the word union. The election called for by CSM would include replacement workers. It would exclude many of the original UFW card

***...it is merely another public relations ploy by the winery. The election called by CSM management is* not *the same type called by the UFW.***

(Continued page10)


**Class Discrimination And The City of Oly** Page 4

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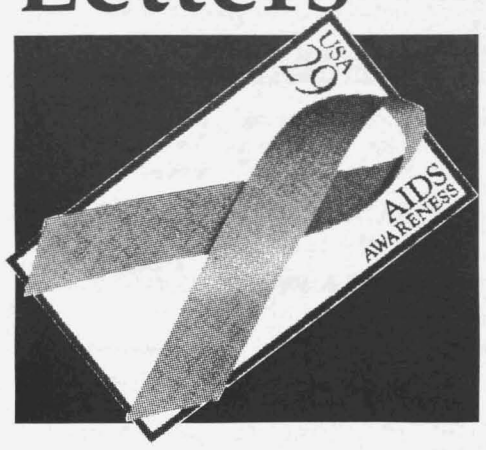
**Remembering Freedom Summer** Page 8


**Next Issue:**
*American Genocide-At-Law*
Tiokasin Veaux explores the issues of Native rights through the definition of the "constitution" and how the mainstream is misinformed about the realities of sovereignity, citizenship, and treaties.

# Letters




# Contract Negotiation at Governor House

*The following is from flyers being handed out at the Governor House by General Teamsters, Chauffeurs and Helpers, Local No. 378. Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehouseman and Helpers of America—Western Conference of Teamsters—Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28.*

Dear Customer of the Governor House:

The Northwest Lodging Corporation and General Teamsters Local No. 378 are currently in bargaining over the terms of a new labor agreement. After years of having a fair contract, this employer has hired a Portland, Oregon attorney to try and strip our conditions of employment. Most of the issues involve job security provisions, seniority, job preference, overtime after eight hours or on the employee's sixth day of work. We are trying to maintain our protective language.

Mr. Alli, the employer's attorney, has continued to try and frustrate the bargaining process by submitting an initial eighteen pages of proposals to our twelve page contract, which brings me to the purpose of this letter.

If we are not able to reach an agreement, we want to afford you an opportunity to make provisions for alternate plans for your lodging and dining needs. So until we have a signed agreement with Northwest Lodging Corporation, I would urge you to take advantage of the facilities at the Westwater Inn, a 100% Union House.

Sincerely,
Teamsters Union Local No. 378
Owen Linch
Secretary-Treasurer

# Correction

Regarding Matt Love's letter in last month's WIP: the correct name of the publication *Olympia Review of Books* is the *Oly Review of Books*. A small difference, but worthwhile so as not to cause confusion with Michael McNeilley's journal: *The Olympia Review*. Also, the issue containing Matt Love's piece will not appear until mid-September.

Robert M Keefe, Publisher
*Oly Review of Books*

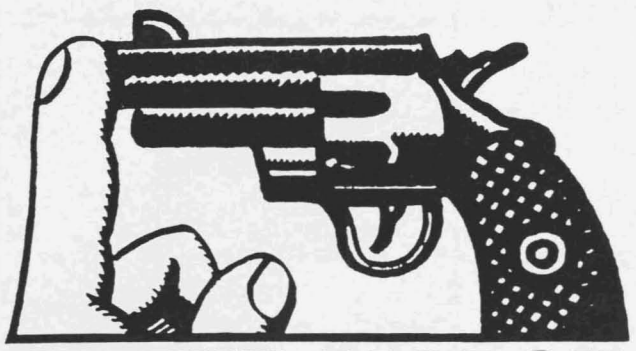
# Thurston County Rainbow Coalition 2nd Annual Garage Sale

**Saturday, September 17**
**10am–5pm**
**222 Cushing NW, Olympia**

**Furniture, clothes, books, music, misc.**

**Refreshments will be served**

**call 357-6243 for info**



# SILENT MARCH WASHINGTON D.C. SEPTEMBER 20 1994 AMERICANS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

**The Silent March is a mobilization against gun violence.**

On September 20, 1994, 38,000* pairs of shoes, collected from all 50 states will be lined up in front of the U.S. Congress, in Washington D.C., in a silent protest to demand action NOW to end gun violence.

**Get involved**
Send a pair of shoes to:

**The Ceasefire Project**
P.O. Box 70672
Seattle, WA 98107

With the shoes insert a note about how gun violence has affected you. We may publish some of the notes so please include your name and either an address or phone number so we can contact you for permission.

You can also drop your shoes off at:

**Sara Bella**
509 S.E. Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98501
(206) 956-0177

*the 38,000 pairs of shoes signify the number of gun deaths in the U.S. every year

For more information contact:

**David Kinne**
(206) 322-6955

# WIP Schedule

**WIP Article submission deadline is**

**Wednesday, Sept. 21**

**Also on that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH (218 Fourth Ave) at 7 pm. Call 705-2726 for info.**

**Proofreading Meeting**
**Call 705-2726 for time and place.**

**For advertising info call ad representative**

**Dave Campbell at 352-6132**

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# *Works In Progress*

**Mission Statement:** This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

**Anti-Discrimination Clause:** We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

**WORKERS IN PROGRESS**

**Jerome Johnson** **Evelyn Montague**
**Zachary D. Lyons** **Teresa Jennings**
**Pat Tassoni** **Chris Russo**
**Greg Hohnholt** **Sylvia Smith**
**Marie Smith** **Dave Zink**
**Dave Campbell**

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

# How To Use Public Transit in Western Washington

## Dave Campbell

With a little bit of money and a lot of time one can go from Olympia north to Skykomish via Tacoma, Seattle and Everett. One can also go to Centralia directly south. You can also go to Aberdeen-Hoquiam then on to Ocean Shores and all the way to Astoria, Oregon. Lets start with the Olympia to Tacoma/Seattle connection. Weekdays only Intercity Transit and Pierce Transit jointly operate 16 runs each way between Olympia and Tacoma. Starting at 5:50 a.m. and the last one leaves Olympia at 6:05 p.m. Mon. through Fri. The full fare is $1.50 when you board get on in Olympia and ask for a transfer. But if you have a Olympia Daily Pass or a monthly Intercity Pass or a Pierce Transit monthly pass or Pierce Transit transfer (when coming south from Tacoma) you only need to pay an additional 75 cents and show your pass/transfer. Once you get to downtown Tacoma or to the Lakewood Park and Ride you have a couple of options starting Sept. 12th you will take the bus from Olympia and transfer to the Seattle Express at the Lakewood 512 Park and Ride. So just 2 buses between downtown Oly. and downtown Sea. Takes close to 2 hours. The fare for the Seattle Express is $2.00 cash or a Pierce Transit transfer and another $1.25 for going north. That is the quickest way to Seattle you can also take a slower way by catching the #500 Pierce Transit bus from downtown Tacoma to the Federal Way Park and Ride on 320th st. near the Sea-Tac mall. There you can hook up with Metro to the Sea-Tac. airport and downtown Seattle via the express #194. From Seattle you can go on to Edmonds and Everett. Always ask for and keep your transfers. Seattle and Tacoma utilize transfers good for a limited time after you first boarding. Seattle also has an 2 zone and peak and off-peak fare structure. Tacoma has a simple no zone .75 cent fare at all times.

The Seattle Express 590 series currently operates weekdays only. Starting Sept. 12th there will be Sat. service.

Grays Harbor Transit operates 6 buses a day to Aberdeen-Hoquiam 7 days a week. You will be able to catch them at the new Olympia Transit center beginning on Aug. 28th. The first departure is at 7:55 a.m. with the last one leaving Olympia at 8:35 p.m. The fare each way is $1.00. Leaving Olympia at 7:55 a.m. you arrive in Aberdeen at 9:20 a.m. then transfer to the Ocean Bus. Ask for a transfer when you get on.

Intercity Transit operates intercounty routes to Yelm, Tenino, Grand Mound, Littlerock and Rochester 6 days a week. From Grand Mound you get to Centralia and Chehalis Tues. Thur. and Sat. only. You can go to Shelton 6 days a week directly from downtown Olympia to Shelton twice a day at 7:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mason County has a free fare system. You can also take the Intercity bus #83 from Capital Mall to Steamboat Island and transfer to a Mason County bus. From Shelton you can take a bus up to Belfair then into Bremerton and Kitsap County where you can take a ferry for free (eastbound foot passengers travel for free) Remember that schedules change and that most of them are limited in frequency and schedules or even days of operation. Allow lots of time to get to where you are going and time enough to get back. The connections are getting easier but when dealing with 2 or 3 transit systems problems can arise. Take the following telephone numbers with you; most of them are tollfree within the 206 dialing area. Some basic facts about Intercity Transit hours of office/telephone help are 7 a.m. - 7 pm. Mon.-Fri. and 8 a.m. -5 pm. on Sat. currently no Sun. hours but that could change. Fares are .50 a ride, $1.00 for a daily pass good all day on all routes except the Olympia-Tacoma Express where an additional .75 cents is needed. Monthly fares are $10.00 for youth ages 6-17, $18.00 for adults, $5,00 disabled/senior and kids through age 5 ride for free. Routes that are bike accessible have a bike symbol on the front of the schedule. You can bring drinks on the bus if they have a lid or cover but please don't drink while on the bus. No dogs are allowed except helping dogs and pets should be in carriers. There is a lost and found that holds stuff for 2 weeks. Intercity Transit is exploring a free-fare system since farebox revenues only cover 8%-15% of total operating budget. Intercity Transit also operates Custom Bus and Dial-a-Lift. Custom Bus operates Mon.-Sat. 7:00 p.m. until 10:30/11:00 and on Sun. starting at 8:15 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Custom Bus picks you up at home, school, work or shopping anywhere in I.T.'s current Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater service area- and connects you to an operating bus route. Custom Bus works on a first-come, first serve basis and operates Monday through Saturday evenings and Sundays during the day. Custom Bus can be reached at 943-7777 during reservation hours or you can have a bus driver radio for a Custom Bus .You can also go to the Amtrak Depot in Lacey via the #94 bus from South Sound center to Yelm. It operates 6 days a week on Sun. and evenings you can take Custom Bus. Dial-A-Lift is for disabled persons and you need to certified for more information please call them at 754-9393.

## Washington Systems Phone Numbers

**Metro (Seattle and King Co.)**
**1-800-542-7876 24 hours 7 days a week**
**Pierce Transit (Tacoma and Pierce Co.)**
**1-800-562-8109 Mon.-Fri. 6 am.- 6 p.m.**
**Sat.-Sun. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**
**Intercity Transit (Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and Thurston Co.)**
**1-800- Bus-Me-I.t. also 786-1881**
**7 am- 7 pm Mon-Fri, Sat 8 am-5 pm**
**Dial A Lift 754-9393, hrs: 7am–6pm**
**Custom Bus 943-7777, 6:30pm–10pm**
**Monday through Sat**
**Grays Harbor (Aberdeen, Hoquiam, The Ocean) 1-800-562-9730**
**Mason County (Shelton/Mason Co.)**
**1-800-374-3747**
**Kitsap Transit 1-206-373-BUSS**
**Twin Transit (Centralia and Chehalis)**
**1-206-330-2072**
**Green Tortoise (Seattle-Port. San Francisco, Los Angeles and elsewhere) 1-800-867-8647**
**State Ferries (Seattle-Bremerton, etc.)**
**1-800-84-FERRY**
**Amtrak 1-800-USA-RAIL**
**Greyhound 1-800-231-2222 or 357-5541**
**6:35 a.m.-7:45 p.m. Mon.-Fri.**
**Capitol Airporter 754-7113**

# Questions to Ask Political Candidates

## WIP News Service

The possibility of "stealth" candidates—people running for office who don't fully explain their beliefs or what they intend to do if elected—seems to be bothering everyone this political season. We've compiled a list of some sample questions to ask potential school board members. But with a little adaptation, you can use the questions to check out anyone running for public office. Go to forums and meetings or call your candidates! It's better to find out what they believe and how they'll vote now, before it's too late.

## Sample Questions to Ask Political Candidates

These questions are designed for sounding out people running for seats on school boards. But you can ask similar questions of candidates for any office.

- What are your top three goals if elected?
- What personal experience and involvement with the public schools during the past five years qualify you to be on the school board?
- How do you define academic freedom?
- What changes would you like to see made in the current curriculum? Why?
- What's your definition of compromise? Is there a place for compromise in public education? On what issues are you unwilling to compromise?
- How would you respond to a grandparent or parent who wants to limit access to or remove books or magazines from a school library?
- Should health education be taught in the public schools? What should schools teach about sex? What should schools teach about homosexuality?
- What is your position on school vouchers? Home schooling programs? Alternative schools?
- What is the greatest problem facing our school district?
- Children are now allowed to pray as individuals in public schools. Should this right be expanded in any way?
- Should creationism be taught in the public schools? If so, how and at what level?
- What should the school district do to educate children who don't speak English, or who live in poverty?
- What organizations have sponsored or endorsed you? What organizations have refused to sponsor or endorse you?
- What is your opinion of the current district programs which serve students and families with special needs, including disabled students?
- How will you go about making sure that the interests of the most people are best served, when usually only a few people speak out? Specifically, how will you reach out to parents living in poverty? To parents who don't speak English? To parents in non-traditional families, including lesbian/gay parents?

**"We have no right to consume happiness without producing it than to consume wealth without producing it."**

**– George Bernard Shaw**

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# DON'T BELIEVE *THE OLYMPIAN,* PART II
## (WELL, MOST OF THE TIME...)

### Greg Hohnholt

*The following letter is a response to the Olympian's August 14 editorial entitled "City authority usurped". The editorial took the view that the Low Income Housing Institute was attempting to dictate city policy by developing the Fleetwood and Federal Building low income housing proposals without receiving city approval. The Olympian chose not to print my response in its pages. It is printed here with some moderate changes, for the sake of clarity and accuracy.*

Dear Editor,

Your editorial in the August 14 Olympian is erroneous on several counts. I believe that your characterization of the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) as a "usurper" of "City authority" is unjustified in light of the historical facts.

First of all, the Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement (SCHEMe), a nonprofit grass roots group of homeless men and women and their advocates, in cooperation with the Department of Trade, Economic, and Community Development, invited LIHI to Olympia to help them secure the Federal Building under the McKinney Act. And as far as the City having any "authority" to create low income housing projects of their own, history shows that the City has not been able to garner the political will to "tackle the homeless issue" since former Olympia mayor Dave Scramsted was replaced by Bob Jacobs. The record shows that Jacobs has blocked or impeded all of SCHEMe's attempts to garner public support for homeless self-help housing projects. Most recently, these attempts include the Fleetwood Building proposal, which has been supported by every other member of Olympia's city council.

Second, your editorial implies that LIHI has been scouting around Olympia looking for empty buildings to develop without regard for the city's opinion. The fact is, the Fleetwood Building was offered as an alternative by LIHI in response to the city's intransigence regarding the Federal Building. The City Council themselves put LIHI in touch with city realtors, and were quite aware of LIHI's intentions.

In general, Olympian has failed to note that since mid-July, LIHI, in partnership with SCHEMe on the Federal Building project, has tried to establish a partnership with the City of Olympia. We at SCHEMe can only surmise that these efforts continue to be rebuffed because the City Council's pride has been hurt by LIHI's "can-do" stance on creating low income housing. Even your editorial admits, albeit somewhat sheepishly near the end, that the city could have acted more "aggressively". SCHEMe's membership couldn't agree more. (For the record, let it be known that City Council members Holly Gadbaw, Jeanette Hawkins, Mark Foutch, and Margaret McPhee have displayed an admirable willingness to work with LIHI. These efforts, have, unfortunately, been outstripped by Bob Jacobs' indiscriminate and reactionary power-posturing.)

On a more positive note, however, The Olympian deserves praise for putting Devin Smith in charge of homeless issues. His articles on the Fleetwood and Federal Building proposals have cleared up a great deal of misinformation floating around town. Personally, I recommend that the Olympian editorial board consider asking Mr. Smith for guidance before assuming to know what is going on with homeless issues in this town. At least Mr. Smith talks to LIHI representatives and SCHEMe members for the "other side of the story". The Olympian editorial board would appear to talk to Bob Jacobs exclusively.

I invite those who have questions on either the Fleetwood or Federal Building proposals to call SCHEMe at 352-9834. I am the SCHEMe Coordinator and would be delighted to talk to anyone interested in these progressive, resident-managed, low income housing projects.

Sincerely,
Greg Hohnholt
SCHEMe Coordinator

***The Olympian editorial board would appear to talk to Bob Jacobs exclusively.***

# Class Discrimination and the City of Olympia

### Patricia Imani

It appears that discrimination is an accepted, if not encouraged, practice in the city of Olympia. The city council, lead by our mayor, Bob Jacobs, has decided unanimously to uphold the practice of discrimination. The targeted victims of discrimination, in this case, are those who suffer from absolute poverty - the homeless. Discrimination against the poor is nothing new in our society. Unfortunately, it continues to be an accepted form of prejudice. It has proven to be a divisive and destructive force that has turned us against one another, against ourselves.

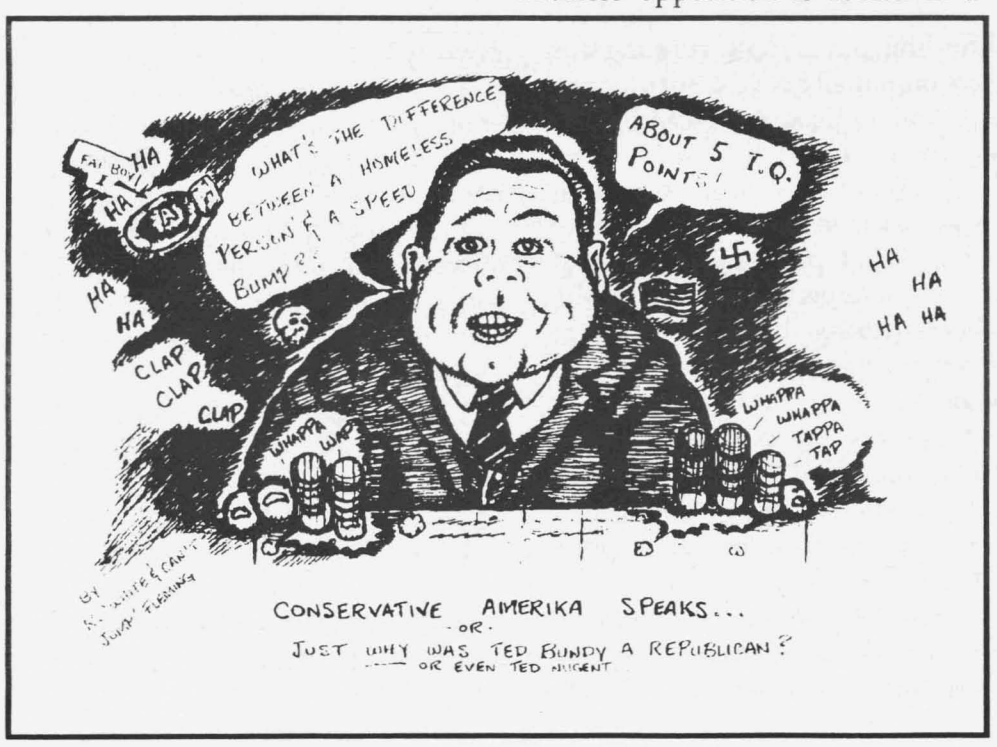
I have watched Olympia's city council, specifically Mayor Bob Jacobs, devote an unprecedented amount of time and energy opposing an innovative proposal that would utilize the empty Federal building as affordable and transitional housing for the homeless in our community. The cause for this ruthless opposition is found in a value system that places profit far above the quality of certain human lives. The Federal Building sits on Capital Way, and when it comes down to it the vision Bob Jacobs and his constituents share regarding just who lives and works along capital way - does not include the (formerly) homeless. It does include the business class. Affordable housing proposals seem to be allowed only when such proposals help the business class secure certain tax breaks, as with the Legion and Capital Way project.

***Affordable housing proposals seem to be allowed only when such proposals help the business class secure certain tax breaks...***

The city council and Bob Jacobs' motives became quite clear during the August 9th city council meeting. Bob Jacobs eagerly supported a proposal to renovate the Fleetwood building as permanent housing for the homeless - a building that sets one block east of Capital Way - on the condition that the Federal Building proposal be dropped. Unfortunately, support for the Fleetwood proposal alone does not address the urgent need for transitional housing for the homeless in our community. Without adequately studying the Fleetwood proposal, the city council, with Ken Black in support, declared that the Fleetwood proposal could indeed be supported by the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), and therefore by the city council members. Now, why one proposal falls in line with the CHAS and the other doesn't, is beyond reason. The proposals are similar in the sense that they help meet some of the housing needs for homeless members of the community. The primary difference is that the city's isolated support of the Fleetwood proposal would preserve Capital Way for the business class. It would keep those homeless folks west or east of Capital Way, where (according to the city council's actions) they belong.

Most would agree that members of our community should have the right to live where they choose, regardless of an individuals or groups particular race, class, gender, age, or cultural identity. Anything less would prove discriminatory. Discriminatory practices are not tolerated by most, if only by principle alone, simply because such practices threaten our progress towards social justice, equality, and sustainablity. It is by supporting each individual's right to belong and to thrive that we will weave the qualities of justice and sustainability into the fabric of our community. Towards the fulfillment of this goal, exclusionary practices have no place. Until discrimination against the poor becomes an intolerable practice, we simply will not enjoy the benefits of a just and sustainable community. Discrimination against a group or individual because of their economic class standing, or for any other reason, is simply unacceptable. I encourage Bob Jacobs and the city council to rethink their position and make a decision based on the ideals of justice, equality, and acceptance rather than a decision based on the devaluation of others lives.

I encourage the reader to call Bob Jacobs, Jolene Unsoeld, Mike Kreidler, Sandra Romero, Cathy Wolfe, and Karen Fraser to let them know your position on the Federal building.



# Chiapas Aid Held for Ransom in El Paso

Caravan News Service

Three months ago the Pomo Indian grandmother Elders successfully completed their Indian Peace Caravan to Chiapas in spite of obstacles the Mexican government put in their way, such as delaying their entry into the country. Over 700 pounds of material aid included medical supplies and eleven computers with stated purpose of distributing them..."to indigenous organizations for use in their organizing for sovereignty and human rights for Indian people." Along their journey the women elders powerfully and spiritually communicated with First People's nations and others about the urgent situation in Chiapas since January 1st of this year. Their networking efforts achieved increased First Nations' national and international attention, an indispensable factor in resisting repression and genocide.

Today, Sunday August 21st, is the day of the Mexican elections. As this article is hurriedly being written for the *WIP* deadline, another caravan is expected to be in Chiapas. The caravan is made up of courageous, mostly women, indigenous labor activist Chicano and student folks; like organizations motivated by a "spirit of solidarity with indigenous and other popular communicating in Mexico that are struggling for autonomy and social justice". The caravan is made up of predominantly Thurston County residents and are respected by many community organizations such as the Hispanic Women's Network, the King County Rainbow Coalition, and the Olympia Farmworkers Support Committee. The caravanists call their organization call their organization the Coalition with the Indigenous People of Chiapas. (CSIPC).

A brief background to the situation in Chiapas is succinctly described in their CSIPC flier. Chiapas is the southern most state in Mexico as well as the poorest state in the country. On January 1, 1994, the day NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) went into effect, several thousand Zapatista guerillas seized San Cristobal de las Casas and other towns, demanding the overthrow of the government, free elections, land rights, and improved treatment of the region's impoverished and long neglected Indians. In response to the uprising, the Mexican Government sent in 20,000 heavily armed troops, and bombed Indian towns and villages throughout the region. The Mexican Red Cross indigenous persons have been displaced and several hundred killed in Chiapas as a consequence of the military's actions. Hunger, disease and lack of shelter typify the conditions that the refugees live under.

The CISPC humanitarian aid caravan, which departed Olympia on Sunday July 21st, was due to arrive at its final destination an San Cristobol de las Casas on Wednesday August 10th — almost two weeks before today's elections.

The caravan kept up with an intensive itinerary of: networking with human rights organizations, collecting material aid, conducting education outreach, and giving press conferences. The fourteen caravanists, in five assorted vehicles, made good time. Their stops included Portland, Eugene, Ashland, Sacramento, San Francisco and Albuquerque among others. The enthusiastic receptions and material gifts are greatly appreciated, though as yet still held up at the border because of unacceptable demands of the Mexican government.

Prior to departure, the caravanists contacted agencies they needed to approve their customs paperwork which included the Mexican Red Cross to obtain clearance on medical supplies. The CISPC caravan had the privilege of experienced advice by the Pomo Indian women elders who had gone through the same bureaucratic maze some months earlier. It appeared, however, that the Mexican officials imposed some extra requirements not demanded by the Pomo. The caravan's spirited August 14th press release explains:

"When both the custom`s broker and the director of the Mexican Red Cross told us that the papers the border officials had imposed were unnecessary, we knew the Mexican government did not want to see this aid get across." said one caravanista.

The caravan, which originated in Olympia, Washington, passed through many western cities collecting donations and making valuable contacts with various human rights organizations. On August the caravan arrived in El Paso to arrange secure passage to Mexico.

After several days of waiting, Mexican officials at the Aduana in Ciudad Juarez imposed a requirement; a broker's authorization which would postpone the caravan's passage for another two weeks to two months, and could exceed a cost of $1,500. Due to limited time and funds, caravanists have decided to leave El Paso on August 15, in order to appeal directly with officials in Mexico City. Most of the aid will remain in El Paso on August 15, in order to appeal directly with officials in Mexico City. Most of the aid will remain in El Paso, pending further developments, while a portion of the medicines, soon to expire, will be redirected to needy organizations in the United States.

We are completely reorganizing our strategies in order to continue with the process of getting this aid down there. We are not giving up. "In fact, our spirits are stronger than ever," said another carvanista.

Caravanists will rally support and meet with contacts on their way to Mexico City in an effort to persuade the Aduana to authorize the passage of much needed aid to the people of Chiapas. The upcoming elections and growing political tensions in Mexico make it imperative this aid be transported to Chiapas immediately.

An attorney and ally for the caravan wrote a letter to Mexico representative requesting that he make a call to the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C. In the letter he expressed legal opinion that the Mexican government's un reasonable demands broke several laws: "Apparently, the Mexican Customs Service has demanded payment of some $1500 before it will allow the humanitarian aid to be delivered to civilians in a war zone within Mexico, all under the auspices of the International Red Cross. While I am not representing the caravans their attorney, I believe that this demand for a $1,500 customs tax, under these specific facts, is an extra-judicial demand in contravention of the applicable laws of Mexico, international treaty obligations of the government of Mexico, and customary international law."

I was able to reach one of the caravanists by phone about the third or fourth day of their El Paso holdup. He informed me that on the Mexican side of the border demonstrations were being staged in the caravanists behalf. He also said they had planned a press conference in Mexico.

The last news received is that the caravan may be in Chiapas now. Anyone interested in supporting the caravan is welcome to make faxes to Aduana Licensiado Carlos AGUILLAR AT THE FAX #011 5216 11 53 23 OR CALL (011) 6216 11-53-83 to appeal or demand that the humanitarian aid be allowed into the country without fees or broker's authorizations that will postpone the aids passage for months. As circumstances can change rapidly in a volatile situation as with these elections, so will strategies. It could be possible that more publicity and international attention could be raised by the detained passage of the humanitarian aid. They would have happened otherwise . I recall when the Pomo caravan was held up, I kept hearing people talking about for weeks after it got through. The last thing Tomas said to me a little over a week ago was there was a strategy to have press conferences. They've also managed to meet with the representatives of the recent National Democratic Convention called by the EZLN with reports to upwards of 6,000. Many of them delegates from grass roots, peasants, workers and human rights organizations. Nelson Mandela sent his regrets for being unable to attend. 1992 Nobel Prize winner Rigabata Manchu and Cecelia Rodrigez, leader of the California Farm Workers and most importantly Youth grassroots delegates inspired by the EZLN. It appears that the caravan will be going to have to focus on the causes of poverty rather than getting the desperately needed aid now. But with a few minutes or more of acting up by a lot of us we'll get that aid and expose the PRI government. Yet again as EZLN again to the woe of a favorable investment climate. Keep in touch (call 352-6142 for information and FAX the Aduana today!

***The caravan, which originated in Olympia, Washington, passed through many western cities collecting donations and making valuable contacts with various human rights organizations.***

# Contracting Out: Pros and Cons

**Dave Zink**

Nowadays, it seems like state workers are becoming scapegoats of convenience for the "business community" and its politicians. Money, and lots of it, is pouring into the effort to turn public opinion against public employees. Initiatives have circulated advocating privatization of state services. The Association of Washington Business and Chambers of Commerce have taken stands advocating it. Privatization - the turning over of public services to private business - starts with contracting out.

Private business says it can do the job cheaper and better than government agencies. Specifically, privatization advocates contend that:

- Contracting out produces better management by bringing in sophisticated cost-cutting techniques.
- Public administrators are freed from managing day-to-day operations and have more time to plan future programs.
- Contracting out provides specialized skills currently unavailable within government and for which it would cost too much to recruit and train new personnel.
- Using private firms reduces large initial outlays for facilities, equipment, and training when new projects are developed.
- Private sector managers have a stronger incentive to perform well because they are motivated by the drive for private gain.
- Competition drives down prices.
- The expansion of commerce increases tax revenue.

If all the claimed benefits of contracting out were for real, it would face little opposition. Unfortunately, the reality is different. As more state and local governments across the country have experimented with it, the actual benefits have proven to be elusive, to put it politely. We can draw some important lessons from these experiences.

Quite often, there are **unstated** reasons, not revealed by the advocates of a particular contracting-out, that may include:

- The proposed contract is a payoff to a political supporter, family, or friends.
- It may be an attempt to "create a union-free environment".
- It is a politically popular idea, especially among many Republicans.
- There is significant pressure from the private sector to "free up" more public service opportunities to business.
- Private companies which find themselves running up against environmental protection and worker's safety regulations, want the regulators off their backs. They seek ways to weaken government, and take the teeth out of enforcement.
- It has been used as a way to intimidate state workers.

***If all the claimed benefits of contracting out were for real, it would face little opposition. Unfortunately, the reality is different.***

Looking at experiences in contracting-out across the country, we can see a few typical results. These include:

1. *Higher costs*. Contracting out often costs **more**, not less. A new layer of bureaucracy may have to be created just to deal with the bidding process, writing of specifications, and contract administration. New duties are added to the jobs of remaining state workers, including training and monitoring performance of contractor personnel. They often have to complete or correct work done by contractors. The dollar amount on the contract may indeed *look* cheap, but the amount paid is often much higher as the contractor renegotiates because of cost overruns. Contractors often "lowball" the original bid to obtain that first contract, then later, as the government becomes more dependent, raise prices significantly.

Private companies' expenses for services are greater because they must make a profit and pay taxes. These factors do not affect the costs of publicly performed services.

2. *Deterioration in Quality of Services*. The only ways to reduce operating costs involve cheaper equipment, fewer employees, and lower pay. The contractor's goal is to maximize profits, which often leads to cutting corners on service quality. How? By hiring inexperienced, transient personnel at low wages and providing inadequate supervision. Writing a good contract is no easy thing: tasks regularly performed by public employees turn out to be omitted in the contract. And, the contractor has the right to refuse anything - even the smallest task - not spelled out in the contract. So the services the public has come to expect are no longer provided at the same level, or simply aren't delivered. Who loses? We *all* endure the consequences and end up paying the bills.

3. *Decline in In-House Morale.* As the government relies more on contracting firms, the public worker gets the message; there is no future in the agency, try to find work in the contracting firm. Public sector expertise erodes, which increases the likelihood of additional work being contracted out.

4. *Corruption*. The use of consultants and contractors to perform public services frequently leads to widespread corruption: bribery, kickbacks, collusive bidding, conflicts of interest, and charges for work never performed. Contracts have been awarded as "thank-you gifts" to reward financial backers of political campaigns. Contracts may be "wired" - written so only one favored or well-connected firm can possibly meet the specifications. Contracting out does **not** guarantee competition, which advocates claim will drive down costs. About the only thing that it *does* guarantee is corruption.

5. *Loss of Flexibility*. The flexibility to respond to emergencies or other unforeseen situations not covered by the contract specifications is reduced, sometimes with devastating impact. When citizens complain, the government becomes only a middleman who can only complain in turn, or enter into costly and time-consuming contract renegotiations or termination proceedings.

6. *Loss of Accountability*. Contracting out lessens the state's ability to meet its responsibilities. Then citizens become disillusioned and lose confidence in their unresponsive government. As more public services are shifted to the private sector, we move from an open and accountable system to a closed, secretive society easily subject to manipulation.

7. *Negative Impact on Women and Minorities.* Women and minorities are better represented in professional and managerial positions in government service than in the private sector. Privatization of state services not only causes public servants to lose their jobs, it also greatly reduces social and economic opportunities previously available to minorities through government employment.

8. *Negative Economic impact*. Gene Bruno, of the New York City district of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) puts it this way: "Yes, private contractors **can** deliver services more cheaply if [public] employees paid a living wage are terminated and non-union, minimum-wage workers are brought in. Busting the unions and stripping [public] workers of benefits is a big part of privatization." Private service providers seek to maximize profits by accepting only the least costly clients, reducing services, paying low wages, and offering meager benefits.

In a capitalist economy, there is a natural tendency toward combination. "Free enterprise", one of the sustaining myths of capitalism, has been gone a long time, and competing companies tend to buy each other out. We observe many companies that, for all appearances, look like they're competing, but if you do a little digging, you'll often find that this is a facade. In the initial stages of contracting-out, there may be several small, competing companies that offer a real choice to the local government. Soon, however, in the all-too-familiar "big fish eat little fish" scenario, we are left at the whim of a few big companies.

Yes, it's true that some state agencies have problems - usually aggravated by budgetary cutbacks. But do we really want depersonalized, unresponsive corporations providing public services? Let your state senator, representatives, and Governor Lowry know how *you* feel about this!

*Adapted from "Why Contract Out?", AFSCME. Thanks to Tim Welch, Director of Public Affairs for the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) for providing some of the materials used in writing this article.*

## A Little History
## What's Behind Contracting Out?

Because communities lacked resources to do things for themselves, local government entities used to depend upon private companies to provide drinking water, provide fire protection, run local streetcar systems, and to provide other basic public services. Serious problems inevitably arose. Contractors frequently overcharged governments - and the taxpayers. Contractors frequently gave government officials under-the-table payoffs for preferential consideration. Contractor-provided services were unsatisfactory. Big-time scandals like Tammany Hall were caused by politicians using government contracts as a way to reward political cronies and supporters.

As a result of such abuses, a reform movement swept the country which made the delivery of public services part of local government. In general, people have been satisfied with provision of public services. When there are problems, government is usually more responsive to the public than a private company is.

During the "Reagan Revolution", however, things started to go backwards. According to Gene Bruno of the New York City district of AFSCME, starving local governments for funds saved money that Reagan needed for his trillion-dollar military build-up, while it also generated anger and frustration among people over the deterioration of public services. Privateers, sniffing profit, began to step forward as saviors.

In a document titled "Principles of Prosperity", the Olympia, Thurston County Chamber of Commerce states: "Local government should aggressively pursue contracting out services that can be delivered more cost effectively through private entities. Local governments should consider contracting out facilities and facilities management, including possible regional facilities such as LOTT and jails."

# Who are the real welfare bums?

**Dave Zink**

President Clinton has surrounded himself with yuppie, pro-corporate advisors, and has increasingly isolated himself from us commoners. 77% of Clinton's cabinet members are millionaires - an even larger percentage than during the Bush and Reagan administrations. One result: medical and social programs that working people and the poor need than at any time in history. And, don't forget the cause of the deficit in the first place: obscene profiteering by the military-industrial complex.

Because of this, more and more of the tax load has shifted onto the backs of us working stiffs. And we **are** getting stiffed. The mass transfer of wealth from working families into the pockets of the wealthy that started in the Reagan years is still going on! If the government is truly

***Did you know that (according to articles in the* Wall Street Journal *and the* Nation*), current tax breaks, tax credits, and outright subsidies to the rich each year* equal the total amount of the federal deficit?!**

are being cut. Just two examples: the 1995 Federal Budget calls for cuts of $1 billion in elderly housing assistance, and $121 million in mass transit operating grants. The most frequently-cited reason for cutting needed social programs is that "We can't afford" things like that anymore: "we" need to cut the federal deficit!

Did you know that (according to articles in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Nation*), current tax breaks, tax credits, and outright subsidies to the rich each year *equal the total amount of the federal deficit?!* The ruling rich are now feeding at the public trough to a greater extent serious about reducing the deficit, we need to *demand* that the rich start paying their fair share!

Yes, welfare reform and the deficit are important. But let's use some common sense. What is normally thought of as "welfare" to the unemployed or to dependent children living in poverty makes up a comparatively miniscule part of the federal budget. But tax breaks and giveaways to the big corporations and the rich, and continued spending on military hardware add up to a *huge* amount. Talk about straining at gnats and swallowing camels! Let's get the **real** welfare bums off the dole!

## It's Time to Act

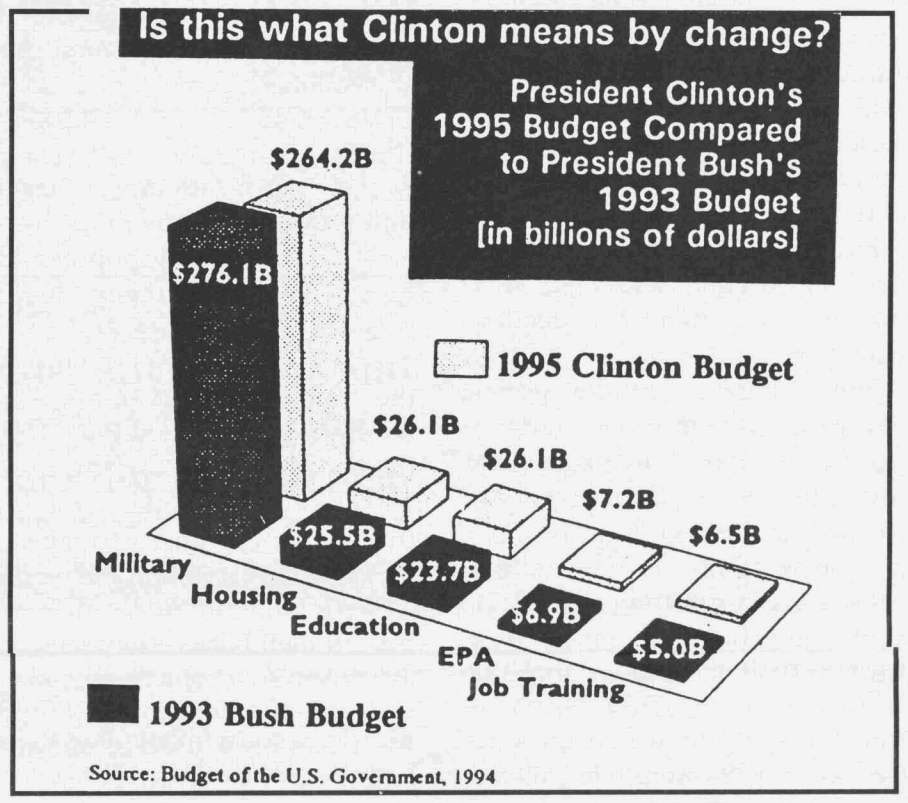
**The Clinton Administration budget for 1995 calls for cuts in crucial social programs, including:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mass Transit Operating Grants | -$121 Million |
| Elderly Housing | -$1 Billion |
| Public Housing Construction and Modernization | -$1.1 Billion |
| Low Income Energy Assistance | -$730 Million |
| Low-Interest Student Loan Fund | -$227 Million |

The FY 1995 Budget holds no plans for our cities, no commitment to sustainable development at home. Yet the Clinton Administration has set aside $264 billion for the military, in FY 1995 alone, up $3 billion from last year.

The President says he won't cut the military further. With America spending more than the next 10 biggest military budget in the world combined and over $200 billion more than *ALL* of our potential "adversaries," there is no reason why we can't cut military spending further.

The Clinton Budget pays for a new aircraft carrier (that the Pentagon admits it doesn't need), but eliminates federal spending on low-interest student loans. It funds a new Seawolf Submarine, but slashes mass transit operating grants by 25% (which means fares will increase), and cuts the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program by 50%. And even though the Cold War is over, it calls for continued military spending averaging $259 billion each year for the next five years.




Socialized to be ashamed
40 instead of 20
mother
having a career
instead of housework
and childrearing
no p.t.a. meetings
to attend for you
instead we played
and you gave me values
trusting me always
I chose to listen to
you and the wind
Not to teachers and peers
churchmen thoughts
I chose to listen to my mother's heart
and knew it was
right for me.

Sonya Bedillion

## Poverty and our Global Community:
### a workshop to Generate Awareness and Action

October 1st
Olympia Community Center
9am–2pm

**Program**

9:00 –Introductions
9:15–Speakers:
Jose Suarez-Torres and Lynn Walker-McMullen
"Making Connections: Poverty, both domestic and global; population growth; the environment; women and education; sustainability."
10:15 High School Journalists' Views on Poverty
10:30 Speaker: Microenterprise Poverty Lending
10:40 Small Group Discussions
11:30–Sharing from Small Groups
11:45–Lunch
12:30–Speaker:
Jolene Unsoeld
"Jolene's views on these issues and answers to our questions."
1:15–Wrap-up and the Future Participation
Community organizations to introduce themselves and talk about how to get involved.

Purpose statement: Through this workshop we aim to draw the connection between poverty, both global and domestic, and the environment, sustainability, population issues, and the status of women and children. To connect successful, cost-effective poverty reduction programs with the power we possess in promoting their replication. As a community we will discuss the thoughts and ideas raised by the speakers and other participants at this workshop to move towards action.

Contact person: Caralyn 482-4657

# Remembering Freedom Summer

**Jerome Johnson**

*On the night of August 20, 1994, the Ku Klux Klan held a cross burning near Wedowee, Alabama.*

"Freedom—
*let me tell y'all about it*
Freedom—
*gotta shout about it*
Freedom, freedom *freedom!*"
civil rights action song,
circa 1955

"O Jesus, won't you come by here?"
old African-American spiritual

In the summer of 1964 a gallon of gas cost .36, a loaf of bread was .65. Earleen Johnson's Mercury Comet automobile was just coming off a Ford assembly line, and the equipment of the Apollo Program came from all over the nation to answer John Kennedy's call to the stars. The Los Angeles Dodgers, World Champions of Baseball, and their arch-rival New York Yankees, were too busy trying to win the World Series to even consider a player's strike. Like millions of other teenagers that summer, a young Arkansan named Bill Clinton was trying to figure out his life. And in Washington D.C., Lyndon Johnson was busy running the country and getting elected. He wanted the Cold War kept as cold as possible—not flare-ups in "that little pissant country." A child of the New Deal, Johnson knew that the next step was now needed. He called it the Great Society.

Johnson wasn't the only one who recognized a time of change. The previous decade, beginning with the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and the Southern bus boycotts, had been the most intense period of civil rights action since Reconstruction, culminating in the March on Washington. Race relations and other civil rights issues could no longer be ignored. As the national consciousness was raised, people from across the country began asking, "What can I do to help?" For many that meant going "into the forefront of the hottest battle," the South—especially Mississippi. Like Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner, some of them were killed. And as we honor them and all other civil rights workers, we also need to remember that the struggle is not yet won—we haven't made it yet; the job is for us to complete. For many black people—not only in the South, but nationwide—the ballot is just one tool in the Empowerment Kit; there is also the dollar, the community, etc. The vote is important, but so are elections and informal "old boy" power networks. Desegregated facilities are important—but one needs a job to have the money to use them. To get the job, one needs education, health care, a home, and a stable community. Each component plays a role in a balanced structure. The veterans of Freedom Summer and the civil rights movement understand this. Indeed, rather than a single event, Freedom Summer was intended to be *one part in a continuing process*. The focus was on voter registration as a preliminary step toward empowering local people in their communities.

Sitting down with older black people, sipping iced tea on a summer evening, one is surprised to hear a trace of wistfulness, a breath of nostalgia in the oral history of those days. It was a time when there was, it seems, just a little more trust, more hope. Our young people didn't kill each other for a pair of sneakers. People felt a sense of not just neighborhood but community, even if the community was 35,000 people strong. We taught our kids and each other manners and work ethics. In segregated schools it was easier to share and expand our culture—the sole reason we've been able to survive in the United States.

Make no mistake—these people, nor anyone else, want a return to Jim Crow. Yet, for entirely the wrong reasons Jim Crow enforced the existence of a cohesive, dynamic black community. (For example, Jim Crow forced black bourgeois to stay in the community with everyone else. As a result there were more black businesses, more cultural activity, stronger churches and more available leaders.) The demise of Jim Crow vastly increased our responsibility because we're no longer *legally forced*, but now *morally compelled*, to care for each other. As a people we must realize that the "balanced structure" mentioned above—even when fully supported by Government—alone will not work. We need to preserve our culture, our sense of somebodyness in this place now called America. When we teach our children about Ben Banneker, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Dubois, Rosa Parks et. al., they learn hope, self-esteem, the value of human life. Millions of us know who Michael Jordan and Snoop Doggy Dogg are, but how many know about Manning Marable, June Jordan or Dr. Joycelyn Elders? How many know about New Year's Day and Juneteenth, and Freedom Summer? It is a sense of somebodyness that enables us to value ourselves and thence other people. Because if we value ourselves, there's a chance—just a bare chance—that we'll value human life—even someone else's—more than a pair of sneakers.

***Desegregated facilities are important—but one needs a job to have the money to use them. To get the job, one needs education, health care, a home, and a stable community.***

The national media hasn't made much of Freedom Summer—nothing like D-Day or the Simpson case. It's too bad. But we have not forgotten, nor will we. Goodman, Chaney, Schwerner, Liutto, Evers and all the others did not die in vain. Their legacy and their work live on, with us, and is being passed on.

A group of high school students from Boston went down to Mississippi and other points South earlier this summer. They raised funds and chartered a bus; their school is not rich, so they eschewed motels and most restaurants, except for Denny's. It was a lot of work, but they did it because they wanted to start learning about the civil rights movement. They stayed at people's homes, listened to accounts of Freedom Summer by people who were there then, and stayed till now. And when they get back the kids will share what they've learned. That's how the civil rights business works, sometimes. Once in a while there's a Big Breakthrough or a Landmark Decision, but mostly we change things one person, one life at a time.

For us, every summer is Freedom Summer.

I mentioned this to my older black friends, but they didn't say much; a nod here, a murmur there, a noncommittal sip of tea...but they seemed to sit a little more comfortably in the soft July night.

*Jerome Johnson is Coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.*

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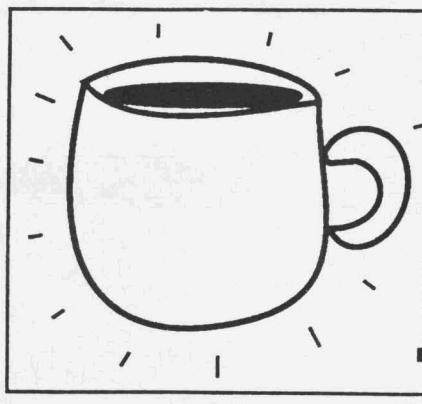
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# I Want Racism to End

**Robin Adalina Landsong and Janique Daaz**

Passing through, we stopped at the Nisqually Tribe Fair. I walked with my female partner, who is also white, being aware of my paleness, my queerness, and the expensive family car that brought me here. Still the only one who was examining me was me. I felt no judgement coming at me. I felt no hostility directed at my skin. As a matter of fact, it felt like the air was easier to breathe here than a lot of white people's gatherings I have been to.

We stood in line to get an Indian Taco for two dollars. The Native Womyn and Man in the booth were working to keep up with the line of hungry people. I unfortunately had to hear the conversation of the old white man behind me. I cringed to hear the tone of his voice. I crawled inside myself to hear his words. He was instilling his own bitterness to his grandson.

"You don't want no Indian food." He said to the mother, "He don't want no damned Indian Taco." He looked down at the boy, "Don't you want a hot dog." It wasn't really a question, and no one really answered him. "Come on boy, let's leave here and go get you an American hot dog."

I felt ill and embarrassed for him. I think back on it now and I have my 'if I didn't fear violence and could think fast enough' action plan, I would turn around take hold of his shoulders and say, "What are you afraid of?"

I am afraid to write this article. I am afraid while I write trying to discuss or change the wrongness I will out of ignorance commit it again. I am afraid of my own ignorance. I am afraid of stepping out of my place into the line of fire.

••••••

Looking down the rifle barrel aimed at me, only a person who has been through the same experience could understand the feeling, the fear, the sight of it when the rifle is just a circle from my view. That means it is lined up at my head. He is standing in the military truck with the other soldiers of a war I don't understand. I am seven years old. I don't know the names of the leaders that gave the orders. I am in a country where in comparison to everyone else I look like a ghost. It must be because I have no dark camouflage that they spotted me. My ghostness is like a winter rabbit on dark soil. I had wandered outside of where I had been told to walk. Stay here in the family of houses Mama Eaton had told me. I wish I could hear her rhythmic voice tell it to me again. I wonder if I will ever see her again when I hear the sound of it. The weapon has been fired. I do not make a decision to fall, it just happens. My world becomes red. I hear the truck engine grind forward. They are leaving. I do not understand. Why would anyone shoot something unless to take home and feed their family. I do understand that I might die here now because I walked where I wasn't supposed to at a time of war.

Today I sit outside in parks and sing the songs Mama Eaton taught me. As much as the songs bring me comfort I still feel fear. Fear that some hateful person will hear my non-English words and want to shoot a foreigner. I sit and try to sing my fear and pain till it has all been heard.

••••••

Listening. Listening now I feel frustration when I hear men back out of confronting sexism because it is not their problem, they don't know how to do it, or the more PC excuse they would not want to step in front of a Womyn to do it. Then try speaking or listening while you sit. I have known straight people to not confront homophobia because 'it's your issue.' I am not going to give myself an excuse. I am going to confront racism even if I don't do it perfectly. I mess up sometimes when I confront sexism. Degrade a Womyn in front of me on a bad day when my political patience is low, and 20 years of rage from the abuse done to me in the past might come down on some jerk who just didn't know how to say it better. I'll tell you though, from my perspective it is better to hear my voice louder than I planned, and see a little spittle hurling from my mouth when I name the problem, rather than leaving silently and going home with a migraine. I had migraines for some 10 years—now I open my mouth and let it out.

Someone that helped me when I was going through Rape Trauma Syndrome recently wrote to me and asked if I had healed my anger. I guess not because it pissed me off that she asked.

Things I have seen in the world:

Women+Rage=Power (on the cover of MS. magazine)

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy? (on a Real Estate billboard in Seattle)

Definition of a Feminist-A Womyn who wakes up and does something in her day to respect and value herself. Definition of a Pro-Feminist-a person who doesn't beat her down for trying, a man who works to respect and value himself (from my own journal August 7,1994)

A great joke a feminist friend of mine told me—how many feminists does it take to change a light bulb? ...One, and that's not funny. I laughed hard. Thanks, I told her I needed a good laugh. I can feel joy, I can celebrate, but I will never find it funny when a valuable human life has to be the brunt of a racist, sexist, homophobic joke. I will never find it insignificant that the oppressor 'didn't know better' or 'was just joking'. There is plenty to laugh about in the world. Degrading a human life is never something that humors me. Poverty doesn't tickle my funny bone. Black people beaten to death by white cops with government issued sticks does not get me into a good belly laugh. Oppression is gross. Oppressors disgust me. It scares me that I can be an oppressor. Scare me enough to do something about it?

***There is plenty to laugh about in the world. Degrading a human life is never something that humors me. Poverty doesn't tickle my funny bone. Black people beaten to death by white cops with government issued sticks does not get me into a good belly laugh.***

I had a Professor tell me once, "People are lazy. They will take the route that is easiest for them, and not challenge themselves." I disagree with him, but I do recognize people act strongest when they have personal motivation. My want to be safe powers me to keep working to de-escalate Violence Against Womyn. My desire to feel comfortable holding a lover's hand when we go for a walk gives me strength to take down homophobia.

I am white, so what are my motivations to be anti-racist?

I want to live in a world where I don't fear bullets flying. I want the reality that fear is based in to be the only thing that goes down.

I want racism to deteriorate instead of meetings at the Womyn's Center when a white woman insults and invalidates every Womyn of color in the room. Womyn of Color who had the courage to come and the dignity to leave. I look forward to the day I don't feel embarrassed to be part of the group 'caucasian' because some pale fool can't connect what she hears to how she thinks, acts, and talks.

I want racism to crack at its foundation because I love my Egyptian brother, Stowhanway. I grieve his choice to no longer be alive in a world so full of hate and violence.

I want racism to fade away because I know the loss of films, art, and writings by People of Color that were edited out, never considered. I feel anger that when I send in my writings about my brother telling his story, Our story, mixing his Native language and english I get back rejection letters.

I want racism to be cured in myself and in the world so I can get over feeling awkward when I approach a Person of Color. I feel sad at the friendships that never happened because there was too much tension on both sides.

I want racist murders to end because I miss my lover Tunas.

I want racism to rot into the ground because I see People of Color have to use their energy and time to fight it. Continually fighting for and defending your land, your life, your dignity, your language, your space, and your rights takes away energy and resources from being able to celebrate who you are.

It is a part of me that I am a feminist, and a Survivor of violence. There is more to me than that. I want to see all of my human potential. I want to be around human potential that is not restrained, categorized, and beaten down. There are so many ways, and people to learn from in this world. I don't want white blindness in my eyes to block me from seeing them.

Sometimes I get paralyzed because I don't have the power to right all the wrongs. I do have the power to get up and take a step in the right direction. This is not the end, but a beginning that has a long herstory.

Thank you to all the People who created Bridges and Windows: People of Color Speak Out. It helped me connect to my courage to send this in.

**1994 Labor Day Celebration 1994**

**Monday September 5, 1994**
**Sylvester Park**
**12:00 Noon – 7:00 PM**

Organized by the Evergreen State College Labor Education and Research Center and the Thurston/Lewis Labor Council

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## (Election?, cont.)

signers who have been fired or harassed and intimidated off the job. This is not a democratic election.

Choosing who gets to vote and who does not and then operating that vote under intimidating circumstances is not a democratic election. These are the type of elections that we hear about in "Third World" countries, but this is not the first time farm working conditions in the Yakima Valley have been compared to the "Third World."

If Chateau Ste. Michelle is truly concerned about a free and fair election why didn't they agree to it seven years ago? Why didn't they agree to it when they acknowledged that 80% of the workers signed authorization cards? As a matter of fact, why doesn't CSM count the cards now and then sit down and bargain in good faith like thousands of other employers in this state and across America.

The answer is simple. CSM and U.S. Tobacco want to continue to deny their farm workers union representation. CSM has run a seven year campaign of intimidation and coercion against their farm workers' union, the United Farm Workers.

## The following is a chronology of farm workers struggle for workplace democracy at U.S. Tobacco owned vineyards:

### 1970s

CEO Allen Shoup works for Earnest and Julio Gallo, a winery which is the subject of a nation-wide boycott because it refused to comply with the orders of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board to negotiate in good faith with the United Farm Workers of America.

### 1974

Chewing tobacco giant US Tobacco purchases Stimson Lane vineyards. US Tobacco pours more than $100 million into vineyard development and initiates Columbia Crest, Farron Ridge, Snoqualmie, Allison Combs, and Saddle Mountain labels to join flagship Chateau Ste. Michelle.

### 1980

US Tobacco hires Allen Shoup as CEO of winery operation.

### 1986

After an 8-year boycott, a farmworkers union in Ohio and Michigan signs agreement with Campbell. A commission is created to oversee elections and contract negotiations. Neither Ohio nor Michigan have collective bargaining statuses for farmworkers.

UFWWS is founded by farmworkers in the Yakima Valley after a series of strikes at hop ranches.

### 1987

The majority of workers at the largest vineyard present a petition to management listing grievances against an abusive foreman. The management refuses to redress the grievances. A day later, the company tells workers of an arbitrary wage reduction. Workers stage a work stoppage. Management threatens to call Immigration and sheriff. The company fires ten workers who objected to arbitrary wage reduction.

A delegation of 15 workers visits UFWWS office and requests assistance in adjusting their grievance with the winery. Two days later, UFWWS representatives meet with 50 vineyard workers. All sign authorization cards. Workers describe deplorable conditions in the fields, including blatant racism, poor field sanitation and instances of serious pesticide exposure. The winery fires three more vineyard workers who demand improvements in wages and working conditions. A week later, UFWWS writes a letter to winery informing it that the union has been designated by the majority of the ranch employees and requesting rehiring of fired workers. The winery does not respond.

UFWWS holds weekly meetings to discuss grievances and attempts to negotiate. When CSM rejects all attempts at negotiation, the workers call for a boycott of the wines.

Stimson Lane retains the farmworker union-busting services of the Dolphin Group, a California public relations firm soon to be notorious for the Willie Horton ad campaign. Under guidance of Dolphin Group, the company fires and suspends more than thirty workers. In an attempt to buy off workers, some leaders promoted to foremen.

State Labor and Industries cites Stimson Lane for violations of field sanitation regulations.

CEO Allen Shoup meets with UFWWS representatives and states that he wants his workers to fall in love with the vines like they do in France. In this relationship, he argues, there is no room for a union.

### 1988

Stimson Lane offers the Teamsters the opportunity to organize the vineyard workers.

### 1990

UFWWS introduces and lobbies for farmworkers collective bargaining bill, but it does not pass.

Organizing begins in second largest vineyard after foreperson assaults vineyard worker. The workers sign authorization cards but the company refuses to recognize the workers' desire for unionization.

### 1991

UFWWS introduces and lobbies for farmworker collective bargaining bill, but it does not pass.

After two year study, the Washington Association of Churches joins hundreds of other church, union, and community organizations in endorsement of the boycott, and endorses boycott of Stimson Lane wines. The decision is based on the

*(Continued next page)*

## Chronology of Recent Chateau Ste. Michelle Anti-Union Vineyard Activity March through July

### March 25

Company buses Ranch 6,8, and 12 "permanent" workers on an all-expense paid trip to Woodinville winery to dine with CEO Allen Shoup. Anti-union consultant, Antonio Mendez, and personnel manager, Susana Reams, accompany workers.

Chateau Ste. Michelle has retained Mendez for several years, but workers state that his presence up to now has been irregular. Since March he has become a virtual fixture at the vineyards.

### May 4

Company orders Rosa Guerrero to dig ditches, while husband is at the UST shareholders meeting, speaking on behalf of the workers. Workers do not recall an instance in which a woman worker was placed on a digging crew.

### May 16

Company buses Ranch 10 "permanent" workers on an all-expense paid trip to Woodinville winery to dine with CEO Allen Shoup.

### June

During work, Ranch 12 vineyard worker denounces union for several minutes on company bus. Forepersons ignore behavior.

The company promotes six worker from "temporary" to "permanent" status. The company overlooks qualified temporary workers with more seniority but are union supporters. The company promotes one worker who has vociferously opposed the union. The other workers who are promoted are new to the company and most are friends or relatives of supervisors.

### July

At a "safety" meeting in Ranch 10, a supervisor orders workers not to sign petitions at the worksite. Two days later during non-working hours, workers sign a petition telling the supervisor that their non-working time is their own time to use as they desire.

### July 10

Antonio Mendez and Susana Reams hold a meeting at a Ranch 8 workers' home, inviting other workers.

### June-July

Worker in Ranch 10 repeatedly denounces the union during working hours, at times yelling her disparaging remarks at other workers. Foreperson ignores behavior.

### July 10

Ranch 8 worker passes out an anti-union flyer that compares UFW benefits and rights to those provided by the company. Workers believe that a foreperson drafted document.

### July 15

Foreperson interrogates workers in her crew, asking each worker if he or she supports the Union. When a worker asks why she is asking the question, she responds that she has been ordered to discover this information. When another worker says he supports the Union, the foreperson presses the worker if it is true. The worker opens billfold and shows union card. She moves on to next worker. Another pro-UFW worker realizes that the foreperson is interrogating workers and begins yelling "Viva la Union!"

On same day, another foreperson tells workers they will be fired without cause if they vote for the Union. He also informs workers that the Union will take away all current benefits.

### May-Present

Ranch 12 foremen and supervisors hold a series of barbecues and meeting, including one in July at which the company gives away t-shirts to all the workers and prizes, including a radio, to winners of a free raffle. A foreman later admitted that the parties are an attempt to but off the workers.

### July 22

Company holds party for Ranch 6 workers. Susana Reams and Antonio Mendez attend the function.

Note: Stimson Lane has four major ranches. Ranch 6 is located near Sunnyside/Grandview, and is the smallest vineyard; Ranch 8 is located near Mattawa and is the second largest vineyard; Ranch 10 is outside of Paterson and is the largest vineyard; and Ranch 12, bordering the Columbia River, is the most recently opened ranch and is the third largest vineyard.

Music • Speakers • Movies

**UFWWS Benefit**

**September 29 • 7pm**
**Capital Theater**

**Music: Tish Honojisa**
**Speaker: Rosalinda Guillen, Officer UFWWS**
**Movie: Troubled Harvest by Women Make Movies**
**sponsored Olympia Film Society**

Music • Speakers • Movies

# Seven Years Long and Growing Stronger

**(Chronology, cont.)**
workers' right to the fundamental right of workplace self-determination. The report also faults the company for sex discrimination, arbitrary wage and benefit reductions, and retaliation.

Thirty-four workers file suit against Stimson Lane for discriminatory discharge and harassment.

**1992**

Winery and parent corporation, US Tobacco, pad campaigns of key state representatives, including Mike Heavey who receives more than $2,000.

UFWWS introduces and lobbies for farmworker collective bargaining bill, but it does not pass.

Workers accept adorable settlement in the lawsuit. Company apologizes for harassment and discriminatory discharge of workers and offers reinstatement to those whom it fired illegally.

The UFWWS launches national boycott of Stimson Lane wines with a 700 person march in Seattle. The UFWWS sets up boycott offices in Seattle, Chicago, and Washington D.C.

In Seattle Times article, winery management admits for the first time that the vast majority of its workers want to be represented by the UFWWS.

US Tobacco CEO Louis Bantle, according to Businessweek, earns $24.6 million.

**1993**

Farmworkers join church and union leaders at US Tobacco shareholder meeting in Greenwich CT. Workers convey their desire for unionization to the company board of directors in a dramatic protest from the floor.

The UFWWS and supporters picket concerts at palatial Woodinville winery. Five or more pickets occur around the state each week. The restaurant campaign is working in eleven communities in the northwest.

Boycott goes international. British Columbia Federation of Labor, Finish, Swiss, and German labor unions endorse boycott. On June 22, the Swedish Food Workers Union stops handling wines in Sweden, halting $1.5 million in sales.

Stimson Lane hires new farmworker personnel manager, Susana Reams, with a reputation for breaking farmworker unions in california.

More than 100 vineyard workers—better than 75% of regular workforce—sign UFWWS authorization cards.

Vineyard workers burn recently issued employee policy manuals before entering for harvest. The manuals contain racist drawings and concludes with a disclaimer, stating that the winery reserves the right to change the policies at any moment and may discharge a worker for any reason at any moment.

Teamsters Local 117 admits that Stimson Lane has given Teamsters standing invitation to organize vineyard workers, without a "legal framework."

Washington State Ferry System drops boycotted wines.

**1994**

UFW of Washington affiliates with the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

Stimson Lane opens new winery, Canoe Ridge, and initiates anti-union campaign led by Antonio Mendez, a California union Buster.

In the mid-1960s, Mendez worked as an organizer for the UFW. He subsequently started an anti-union consulting firm and has earned a reputation as one of the ruthless anti-union consultants in California. Between 1980-1983, Mendez coordinated an anti-union campaign at UFW elections in the Salinas Valley in California. In one campaign a company agent hired by Mendez allegedly killed a pro-UFW worker. The alleged murderer mysteriously escaped.

In a second election, a company agent waived a gun at women and children at a pre-election conference, telling them that he would kill the workers who voted for Chavez. Mendez bailed him out after he was arrested by the Sheriff.

UFW returns to US Tobacco shareholders meeting. UST CEO states that the company is hopeful that a resolution will occur soon.

## Sonya Bedillion

Support continues to grow for the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS) in their attempts to unionize at the Chateau Ste. Michelle (CSM) Winery located in Sunnyside, Washington. Recently Kenny Loggins cancelled a benefit for unions at the Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery located in Woodinville, Washington once he learned about the UFWWS boycott against CSM.

Currently CSM has entered into negotiations with UFWWS and that is why it is more important than ever to increase pressure on CSM. CSM came to the negotiation table because of the support the boycott has received. While it is good that the two sides are talking about finding a workable solution, it is important to pay attention to what CSM is doing during this negotiation process. While negotiations are being held, Antonio Mendez, an anti-union consultant is creating divisions among the farmworkers at CSM. He was hired in March 1994. From 1980-1983, Mendez coordinated an anti-union campaign at UFW in the Salinas Valley in California.

Currently Mendez is accompanied "permanent" workers to all-expense paid dinners with CSM CEO Allen Shoup in March and June. In June, six "temporary" workers were promoted over union-supporting "permanent" workers. In July a supervisor ordered workers not to sign UFWWS petitions, and a foreperson interrogates workers about their support for the union saying she has been ordered to discover this information. On the same day, another foreperson tells workers they will be fired without cause if they vote for the union; and the union, if accepted, will take away all current benefits. So, while SCM professes to 'negotiate' with the UFWWS they continue to attempt to break up any organizing activities.

### On the Local Front

The Olympia Farm Workers Justice Committee has been talking to area restaurants in an attempt to build support by asking them to not sell the wines.

The most recent is the Olive Garden Restaurant located by the Capital Mall in West Olympia. Negotiations were set up with the Dispute Resolution Center ad on the day of negotiation, the management of the Olive Garden cancelled and wanted to reschedule the meeting on the condition that the OFWJC not have an informational picket at their restaurant. The OFWJC decided nothing would be gained from this stalling tactic and rejected the idea of calling off the picket for the slim chance that the Olive Garden may pull the wines.

It is not a wine issue. People are being exposed to pesticides, there are unfair wages, and substandard living conditions. It is now more important than ever to become involved in this struggle.

***Negotiations were set up with the Dispute Resolution Center ad on the day of negotiation, the management of the Olive Garden cancelled...***

### Upcoming events:

**Saturday September 10 2:30-10pm**
Yakima Speaker's Symposium at the Sun Dome in Yakima
Entertainment includes Former President George Bush and wife, Barbara; Jack Kemp; Tony Bennet. At 2:30 the Wine Tasting events take place which feature CSM Columbia Crest wines. UFWWS will picket and hand out information from 2-4pm.

**Sunday September 11 all day**
UFW will be distributing information at CSM in Woodinville for the Woodinville Family Fun Festival.

**Sunday September 11 5pm**
Tony Bennet will be performing at CSM in Woodinville. There will be a picket from 5-7pm.

The OFWJC continues to hold informational pickets at Ruby's Wednesdays 12 noon & Budd Bay Cafe, alternating weekly with the Olive Garden, Fridays at 5:30pm. For more information and to become involved in this human rights struggle call Brian Baxter at 705-8806.

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# California Table Grape Boycott Still On

## Zach Lyons

The *Boycott Quarterly* is often asked if the California table grape boycott is still going on. Yes. The latest grape boycott — the second grape boycott—began in 1986. Farm labor legislation, passed in California in the late 1970s, failed to address the needs of farm workers, charged the United Farm Workers (UFW) in the *Label Letter*, after Governor Pete Wilson, his predecessor, George Deukmejian, and their supporters effectively dismantled the state's Agricultural Labor Relations Board over the last 12 years.

*BQ* also often hears from food co-ops, natural foods stores and concerned individuals that they support the grape boycott, but that they buy or sell organically grown grapes. Apparently there continues to be confusion over whether or not organic grapes are boycotted or not. Grapes is consistently one of the most widely honored boycotts among grocery co-operatives, but, more often than not, these co-ops sell organic grapes. According to the UFW, organic grapes are also boycotted.

The confusion over the "labor correctness" of organically grown grapes seems to stem from the UFW's heavy emphasis on the dangers of the use of pesticides to farmworkers, their families, agricultural communities and the general public. During a period of heightened environmental awareness by many consumers, the pesticide issue was one many consumers could relate to. Unfortunately, too many consumers focused entirely on the pesticides issue, ignoring repeated reminders from UFW organizers that organic grapes are, in fact, also the object of the California table grapes boycott.

While pesticides is clearly an important issue to farmworkers, and the UFW in particular, it is not the only issue. It is simply another of the many problems that farmworkers encounter in modern agriculture. Others include — as noted in every other article on farmworkers in this issue — wages, health care, housing, job security and the agricultural industry's refusal to recognize the chosen representatives of the farmworkers. The industry can do this because farm labor is specifically excluded from the protections of National Labor Relations Act.

Organic farms have exploded all over the country in the last decade, in response to growing consumer concern over the dangers of pesticide residues on food and the effects of pesticides on the environment. The UFW, by raising the pesticide issue in the grape boycott, tried to tie consumers heightened awareness of pesticides to the daily reality of the farmworkers, and their families, who are in contact with the densest concentrations of the chemicals — in the fields, in their drinking water, in the air. It is an issue consumers can easily relate to. Too easily, unfortunately.

I did not discover just how unsavvy I was about farmworker issues until I spent a weekend with farmworkers in Oregon. Organizers there told me over and over again that I would not truly appreciate the situation of daily life for farmworkers without actually visiting. And the more I tried to generate "files" on various farm labor boycotts, the more I discovered that it is genuinely impossible to present "the facts" on paper in a way that makes sense to the magazine-reading public that has never visited a large scale farm to examine it for themselves. I realized that my faith — your faith — was not enough. There were still holes.

That is why this whole organically grown grape confusion exists. Opponents of the UFW focused on the pesticides issue and tore it apart — ignoring the other important issues — while well-meaning health and environmental activists jumped on the pesticides band-wagon, often forgetting the other issues. And when presented with organic grapes, some considered it a victory.

But let's be realistic here. While many organic farms sprouted up out of good environmental and health intentions, many more saw dollar signs — big bucks in a market niche where demand was growing faster than supply. Though many organic farmers may have a heightened sense of labor justice, not all do, and certainly not the largest agribusiness farms that, while organic, still engage in all the other practices rampant in the agricultural industry today. Plain and simple, organic only means organic.

***to the benefit of farm workers. But it does not solve low wages, no benefits, inhuman housing conditions, poor health care facilities and no job security. A union contract, on the other hand, can solve all of these problems, and it can get rid of pesticides, too.***

Granted, the removal of pesticides is to the benefit of farm workers. But it does not solve low wages, no benefits, inhuman housing conditions, poor health care facilities and no job security. A union contract, on the other hand, can solve all of these problems, and it can get rid of pesticides, too. And while the National Labor Relations Act excludes farmworkers from the right afforded all other workers in the United States — the right to organize — it does not, nor does any other law, forbid farms or farmworkers from engaging in collective bargaining agreements.

The bottom line is that growers — in this case, California table grape growers, organic or not — refuse to recognize the UFW as the representative of any farmworkers. The AFL-CIO has subsequently called upon the labor community, stating in the *Label Letter*, "Unions throughout the United States are being asked to show one of the UFW videos — 'No Grapes' or Cesar Chavez' Celebration of Life' — at meetings or other membership gatherings. Unions also are being asked to encourage their members to distribute grape boycott leaflets at places where consumers gather in their communities."

The following is an excerpt from the address given by Arturo Rodríguez, President of the UFW, at California's Capitol on April 24, 1994, on the occasion of the end of the Delano-to-Sacramento Pilgrimage to honor the life and work of Cesar Chavez, and to rededicate to his work:

"We are asking everyone who is here today to join us in helping to make this a freedom summer for farm workers. Whether you are from a rural or an urban community, make a commitment. Take a stand.

"If you're a farm worker, sign a union card. Help us organize the workers at your ranch — to have an election and to pressure the grower to sign a union contract.

"If you're from an urban community, come join and help us sign up farm workers in the fields. Join the boycott of specific growers who break the law or refuse to bargain.

"Let the fields be alive with hope and activism as farm workers take direct action in ever increasing numbers.

"Let us do as Cesar has taught us. In his name, stand up for our rights in this nonviolent fight.

"So that future generations of our people will not be humiliated and cheated by growers and labor contractors, *fight!*

"So that farm workers can win decent pay and benefits, *fight!*

"So that the honor of women farm workers will be respected by the growers, *fight!*

"So that our families and children can live free from the tragedy that pesticides bring, *fight!*

"For the courage and hope Cesar gave us, *fight!*

"For his dream of dignity and freedom, *fight!*

"Now is not a time for doubt or fear. Now is the time for renewal and resolve.

"In Mexico, people make *mandas* — or solemn pledges — only to fulfill truly important commitments. Many farm workers made *mandas* during this march. Some people — including a number of marchers in their 70s and 80s who walked in 1966 — made *mandas* that they would finish the entire route.

"Today, I make a *manda* before this gathering on behalf of myself and the union: We will devote every measure of commitment and strength to realizing Cesar's dream of a strong and democratic national union of and for farm workers.

"So long as we continue working in this good cause, so long as farm workers organize, stand up for their rights and fight for justice, then Cesar Chavez will live in our hearts forever."

UFW of America, AFL-CIO
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- the growing media clout of right-wing Christian fundamentalists
- gaffes and goofs by America's leading TV pundits
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- the corporate take-over of public television
- attacks on free speech in the music, entertain ment and news industries
- tough, independent journalism that cuts against the media grain

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# New Resources for Fighting the Right

## WIP News Service

Portland's Feather & Fin Productions has put together *In Jesus' Name: The Politics of Bigotry*, a five-part radio documentary investigating the Christian Right. The 2 1/2 hour series explores the 1992 anti-gay ballot initiatives in Oregon and Colorado, and places them in context of the Christian Right's larger agenda. *In Jesus' Name* won the 1994 National Federation of Community Broadcasters Golden Reel Award. Feather & Fin Productions, 1214 SE Flavel Street, Portland, OR 97202, 503-235-2623.

The American Jewish Committee recently released The Political Activity of the Religious Right in the *1990s: A Critical Analysis*. The booklet details increased activity by the Religious Right, focusing on current leaders and the Religious Right's agenda for the 90s. AJC, Institute of Human Relations, 165 East 56 Street, New York, NY 10022-2746.

*Guide to Uncovering the Right on Campus* is the University Conversion Project's 52-page illustrated publication providing information about Right-wing attacks on campuses nationwide. The guide also covers conservative campus groups, and new groups battling racism, sexism and homophobia. Send $7 to UCP, Box 748, Cambridge, MA, 02142.

*Community Action Kit: An Information Pack to Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education* is The Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SEICUS) answer to the Right's pressure on school sex ed programs. SEICUS, 130 West 42nd St. Suite 2500, New York, NY 10036, 212-819-9770.

Through Rethinking Schools comes a revealing analysis of false promises offered by school voucher plans supporters, who often include the Right. *False Choices: Why School Vouchers Threaten Our Children's Future* explains how conservatives use "school choice" to attack public education. Send $5.00 to Rethinking Schools, 1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-964-9646.

People for the American Way recently released the second edition of its report documenting 204 challenges to the arts, including performance art, poetry, and visual art. Most of the challenges tried to limit public access to the work—in other words, to prevent those who wanted to see it from doing so. Many people would call this censorship, and violation of the artist's right to free speech. *Artistic Freedom Under Attack* costs $13.95, from People for the American Way, 1-800-743-6768. People For also issues A*ttacks on the Freedom to Learn*, a record of documented efforts in the U.S. to censor school books and materials. The number of such challenges in Washington state during the last eleven years place us fifth among all states, after California, Oregon, Florida and Texas.

The National Jewish Democratic Council has compiled a comprehensive collection of essays and organizing tips from over three dozen national and local organizations working against the Religious Right. *How to Win: A Practical Guide to Defeating the Radical Right in Your Community* is intended as a tool for local activists building grassroots efforts and coalitions to stop the Right's growing political power. The essays include practical skills and tips to resist attacks on school boards, libraries, arts organizations, reproductive rights and gay rights. For $25, you get a hard copy and a copy on IBM-compatible disk so you can make multiple copies. Write NJDC, 711 2nd Street NE #100, Washington DC 20002.

*A New Rite: Conservative Catholic Organizations and their Allies* profiles over two dozen organizations. Catholics for a Free Choice produced this directory to provide accurate data and analysis of each organization as well as an explanation of what links these groups to each other and to the Christian Right. The entries also include information concerning the structure, leadership and financial data of each organization, from well-established groups (Knights of Columbus) to the relatively obscure. For more information, contact Catholics for a Free Choice, 1436 U Street NW Suite 301, Washington DC 20009.

*Thanks to the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression (1402 3rd Avenue, #421, Seattle, WA 98101) for allowing us to excerpt information from the Summer, 1994 issue of their excellent newsletter. We also thank RESIST Newsletter (One Summer Street, Somerville, MA 02143), through which we first heard about the radio documentary and education-related resources.*

# Influential Portland Group Urges Ban on Sexual-Orientation Discrimination

The City Club of Portland adopted a committee report recommending a state constitutional amendment "that prohibits intentional discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations." The influential group, composed of a wide cross-section of Oregon's movers and shakers, studied questions raised by anti-gay rhetoric and initiatives for over a year before issuing a 43-page report approved by majority vote of the membership July 8. One of the study's objectives was to provide factual information while "avoiding judgments based on moral or religious beliefs." The committee also hoped to reduce "divisiveness within Oregon."

In addition to acknowledging the need for legislation to protect anyone discriminated against because of sexual orientation, the report recommends that Oregon school systems refer students to trusted adults on "sensitive issues such as homosexuality" and that teachers and counselors receive training in doing this effectively; that state agencies providing services for at-risk youth should "address the unique problems associated with homosexual youth"; and that conduct-based standards focusing on acceptable professional interpersonal behaviors should be backed by business leaders.

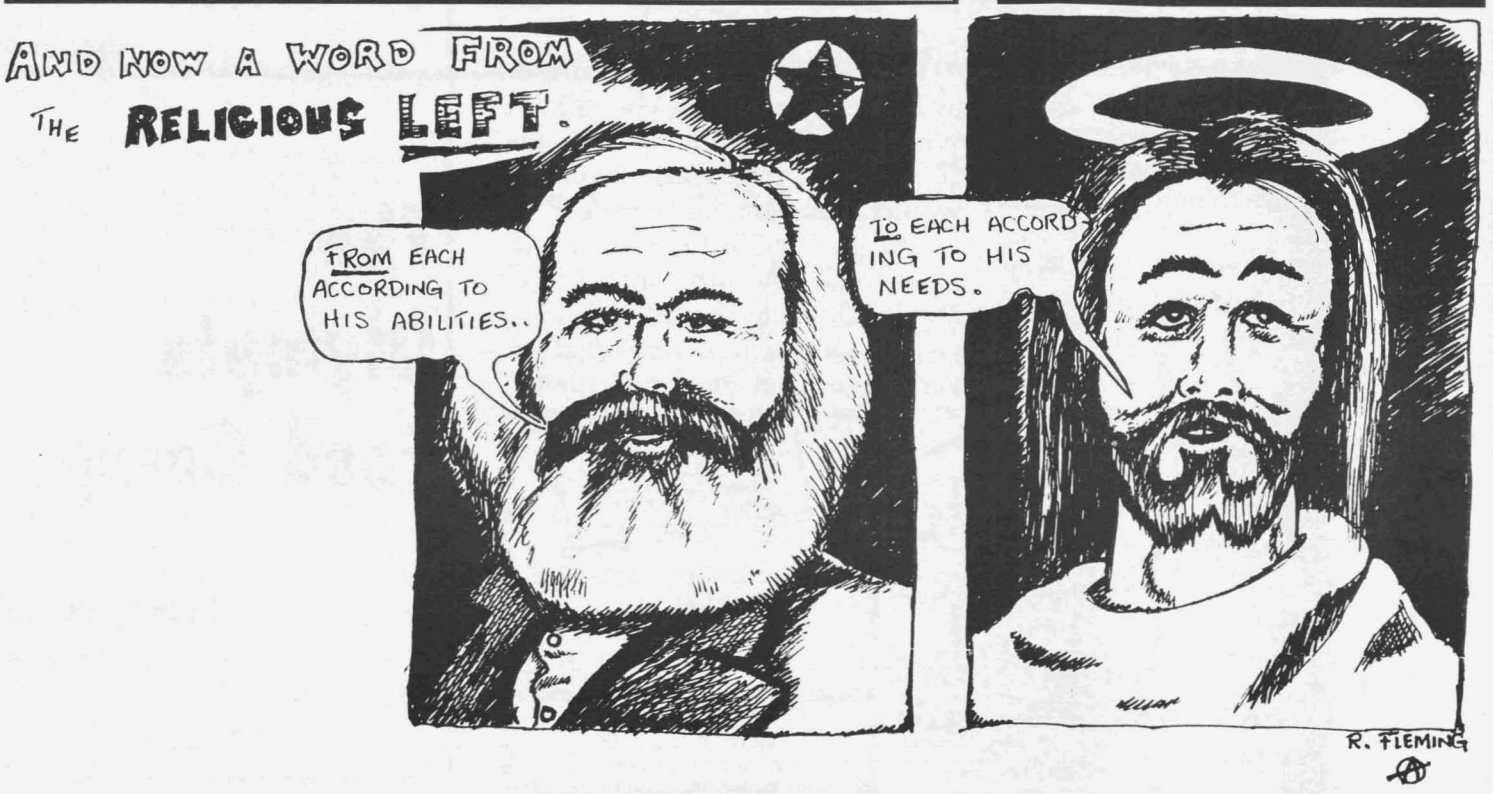
Copies of the report "Homosexuality in Oregon" cost $3.50, and are available from the City Club of Portland, 317 SW Alder St. #1050, Portland, OR 97204.

## Questions about sexual orientation?

The American Psychological Association has put together a three-page pamphlet titled "Answers to Your Questions About Sexual Orientation and Homosexuality." You can get a copy free by sending an SASE to "Sexual Orientation," Public Affairs Office, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street NE, Washington DC 20002-4242. The following excerpt from the pamphlet is reprinted with the APA's permission.

## What is sexual orientation?

"Sexual orientation is one of the four components of sexuality and is distinguished by an enduring emotional, romantic, sexual or affectional attraction to individuals of a particular gender. The three other components of sexuality are biological sex, gender identity (the psychological sense of being male or female) and social sex role (adherence to cultural norms for feminine and masculine behavior). Three sexual orientations are commonly recognized: homosexual, attraction to individuals of one's own gender; heterosexual, attraction to individuals of the other gender; or bisexual, attractions to members of either gender. Persons with a homosexual orientation are sometimes referred to as gay (both men and women) or as lesbian (women only)."



## The Baha'i Faith

# An Emerging World Religion

**Ellen Atkinson**

The word *Baha'i* comes from the name of the Founder of the Faith—Baha'u'llah (the Glory of God). Baha'i means a follower of Baha'u'llah. The Baha'i Faith is called a world religion for several reasons.

Baha'is [plural of Baha'i] live in more than three hundred countries and territories of the world. In general Baha'is are people who formerly had different and conflicting religious backgrounds. We were Buddhists, Jews, Moslems, Zoroastrians, Hindus, Protestants, Catholics, New Age, Indigenous, many forms of personal spirituality, or of no religion. We have found in the Baha'i Faith a basis of unity that makes the competition of sects and denominations unimportant to us. We are people of all different economic and social classes, of all different national and racial backgrounds. Through a common devotion, rich and poor mingle as equals and work together to establish a world order for all men and women. The Baha'i teachings have give us higher loyalty—the loyalty to humanity. We have no segregation. In this Faith, people of all races find equality with each other because we are all equal before God.

Another reason the Baha'i Faith is a world religion is that the Faith develops world-mindedness. *"Let you vision be world-embracing, rather than confined to you own selves." "That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race."* Baha'u'llah

A third reason is that the Baha'i Faith offers a clear pattern of world order. It does not have any secret mystic doctrines; it does not have any priesthood or professional clergy. People find this a practical, spiritual religion with the mission of uniting the world in one common faith and one order. Baha'u'llah declared the in our time religion must unity people or else it has no social value. He declared that religion must show men how to build a just world. He emphasized that justice is the greatest good in the sight of God. To show men how to achieve this, He outlined a pattern of world order.

Baha'u'llah's vision of a united world begins with each man and woman. Individuals must have high moral standards and a new basis of belief if they are to become citizens of one world.

Baha'is believe in one God, even though men have called God by different names. God has revealed His Word in each period of history through a chosen Individual Whom Baha'is call "the Manifestation of God." He restates in every age God's purpose and will. His teachings are a revelation from God. Abraham, Moses, Krishna, Buddha, Zoroaster, Christ, and Mohammed were Manifestations religion is the real basis of civilized life.

Since there is one God, these Manifestations of God have each taught the same religious faith. They have developed and adapted it to meet the needs of the people in each period of history. This unfoldment of religion from age to age is called "progressive revelation." Baha'u'llah, the Founder of the Baha'i Faith, is the Manifestation of God for our time.

The pattern of world order Baha'u'llah outlined includes a House of Justice established in each community. This body, elected by the people, is to be composed of men and women so qualified that they may be "trustees of the Merciful among men." Each nation will have a secondary or National House of Justice whose members elect the International House of Justice. (The first Universal House of Justice was elected in 1963 by the 56 national administrative bodies existing at that time, its headquarters at the Baha'i World Center, Haifa, Israel.

Baha'u'llah emphasized certain principles to help bind people together in a united world:

- Humanity must seek for truth individually, in spite of custom, tradition, and prejudice.
- Men and women must have equal opportunities, rights, and privileges.
- The nations must choose an international language to be used along with the mother tongue.
- All children must receive a basic education.
- Humanity must make systematic efforts to wipe out all prejudices that divide people.
- Humanity must recognize that true religion is in harmony with science.
- Humanity must work to abolish extreme wealth and poverty.

The Baha'i Faith originated in Iran in 1844. In that year a young Man Who called Himself the Bab (or "Gate") began to teach that God would soon "make manifest" a World Teacher to unite men and women and usher in the age of peace. The Bab attracted so many followers, one million in six years, that the Persian government and the Islamic clergy united to kill Him. They massacred more than twenty thousand of His followers.

In 1863 Baha'u'llah announced to the remaining followers of the Bab that He was the chosen Manifestation of God for this age. He called upon people to unite; He said that only in one common faith and one order could the world find an enduring peace. He declared that terrible wars would sweep the face of the earth and destroy the institutions and ideas that keep humanity from their rightful unity.

The teachings of Baha'u'llah are a ringing call to action. They offer hope, courage, and vision. He wrote more than a hundred volumes, the most important of which are translated into English.

But Baha'u'llah was not greeted with enthusiasm by the religious leaders of Islam. As they saw His Faith spread, their hatred grew. They forced Him into exile—first to Baghdad, then to Constantinople, to Adrianople, and finally to Akka, Palestine. There He died, still an exile and prisoner, in 1892.

Baha'u'llah appointed Abdu'l-Baha, His eldest son, as the Interpreter of His teachings and the Exemplar of the Faith. Under the leadership of Abdu'l-Baha the Faith was introduced to Europe and America. After He was freed from prison in 1908, Abdu'l-Baha made several journeys. In 1912 He was in American for eight months during which time He laid the cornerstone of the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette, Illinois.

In 1921, Abdu'l-Baha died and left a will naming His eldest grandson, Shoghi Effendi, the first Guardian of the Faith and the interpreter of the teachings. Under 36 years of Shoghi Effendi's direction the Baha'is throughout the world have adopted an administrative order that is an application of Baha'u'llah's teachings for a world order. Thus Baha'is have begun to practice in their own affairs the social teachings of Baha'u'llah.

Local and National Baha'i Spiritual Assemblies are the pattern for the Houses of Justice of tommorrow. Baha'is know from increasing experience that differences of nation, race, class, and religion can be removed by the uniting power of Baha'u'llah. Baha'is know from increasing experience that this Faith can save men and women from the hatreds, pessimism, the corruption, and the materialism of our age. We know this because we have seen it and experienced it. We invite you to investigate this Faith and share in this spiritual adventure.

*This article was submitted by the Olympia Local Spiritual Assembly.*

***People find this a practical, spiritual religion with the mission of uniting the world in one common faith and one order.***

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## (PUD, continued)

development that benefits everyone. I believe that is what must also occur with the P.U.D. in Thurston County. Right now, being a water provider, our P.U.D. can grow in its ability to provide service to all our citizens in a meaningful manner. The Thurston Conservation District has grown in responce to our need to protect water quality in our County. The overnight growth, reflecting the county, of the Conservation District is still undergoing growing pains as an organization. The P.U.D. cannot afford to make the same mistakes in order to be able to achieve its goal.

The administration of personnel and the organization of staff responsibilities take some time to mesh in a rapidly growing organization. The Washington State Employees Credit Union took 33 years to become one of the strongest and best organized finacial institutions in this community.

It takes time to grow effectively and efficiently as a strong organization for the public's benefit. Water service is a good direction to point our P.U.D. in to enable it to grow and develop capacity for the future needs of our citizens.

Let's investigate the current turmoil of the providers of our state's electrical power over the last ten years. B.P.A., which a decade ago had Congress enact the Northwest Power Conservation Act, has embarked on a whole "new approach" to operating in a more competitive market-place for the generation of electrical power. It has already eliminated the subsidies it once bestowed on consumers for conservation measures in the home and workplace. Contractors involved in weatherstripping and placement of insulating jackets on water heaters are uncertain if the local utilities will be continuing their services, now that the electrical distributor must pay for all conservation costs.Conservation activists have been alarmed by the sudden change in direction that deregulation has brought with it. It may be a bumpy road for some time to come.

Three serious problems have surfaced this year for our private electrical utilities. One is the recent reversal in the direction of national interest rates. This increases the operational costs for which any regulated utility must either absorb or get permission to increase its rates. Another problem is that federal deregulation of the entire industry has created a bad investment environment for all of the nation's private utilities. Electrical utilities are currently not perceived as being the stable investments they once were, in a more deregulated climate. Businesses may soon have the option to purchase their power from any source and only pay the utility for the service of transmission to the actual point of use. This change would place the full brunt of the costs of any new electrical power generation on current and new home-owners solely. Great uncertainties abound about how much power and for what customers it is needed over time. None-the-less the service area continues to grow. The final problem specific to Puget Power was the matter of the rate rollback hearings of this summer (see sidebar).

Public Utilities Districts and Municipally owned electric service providers have been serving the public successfully for many years. They currently are the prime distributor of electrical power in a large percentage of the state's rural counties. The cities of Seattle, Tacoma, and even Centralia have municipally run systems. These utilities usually are administered by a utility board which is directly accountable to their city council's.

Public Utilities have not only expanded their customer base since their inception, but have also branched out into new services as well. PUDs have been involved in water service since the 70s in our state. Some have also been brought into sewage treatment as well. Thurston County's own PUD is solely a water provider for some 900 hook-ups here. There has been an overture made by our current PUD to expand that role at the county's request in order to better service the rest o the county including our cities projects where their help is sought for. (The specifics are covered in September's *Green Pages* article about our PUD)

Finally, people always ask why doesn't our PUD become an electrical provider here in Thurston County? It was last attempted about thirty years ago and was rejected by the voters on a ballot specific to that issue. The Cold War, Castro, and severe hysteria over socialism proved to be its failure at the time. The electric utility was of far less size that it is today. I believe that the PUD must first grow carrying out the responsibilities it has to provide water to best grow gradually and be able to retain the public's trust.

I'm not for the overnight approach to building up our PUD. I believe that we first must make it grow by doing what it is already familiar with, providing water. Let's make it take a stronger role in providing those activities for our county. I'm certain that in the long run people will be able to discern the actual difference between public and private utilities by their own comparison. I'm certain that people in this community are now knowledgeable of the differences between a credit union and a private bank. This analogy is a useful one to better understand the public versus private utility debate.

*Chris Stearns is a geologist who testified for the Washington Citizens for Responsible Mining, which fought to pass mining reform legislation earlier this year.*

## Puget Power's Rate Increase?

Ratepayer rollback hearing were conducted earlier this summer by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), which oversees Puget Power and all the other electric power utilities, both public and private, in our state. The matter being hotly contested was over the contracts for construction of new power plant generation facilities to be jointly owned and operated by the utility and several other public and private interests.

The UTC argued that there needed to be a rollback in the last rate increase granted last fall because no allowance was made for the availability of cheaper hydropower during periods of surplus output. They asked the utility why it did not provide for dispatchability (ability to temporarily shut down power generation operations) in at least three of its new projects. The current policy's net effect was to tie up ratepayers to higher rates rather than utilizing the cheaper BPA surplus.

Atop this whole debate is an activist Attorney General's public interest lawyer that was asking for every new contract to be reviewed for the same reason. This would place the UTC in the middle of the spectrum of the debate creating a distinct possiblity that an actual rate rollback may actually occur.

Puget Power stock which began the year at $29.00 has been wandering around in the high teens this summer, which has lead to an active concern by its shareholders as to how well the company is being managed. A fairly large number of senior citizen stockholders, organized by management, attended the Puget Power rate rollback hearings earlier this summer and voiced their fears of losing equity in their investments in the company. They failed to comprehend the other market factors in the utility's decline, although I'm certain company management did not!

It made for an entertaining hearing here in Olympia and many new questions were raised. The results will be announce this month. Meanwhile, Puget Power has put in motion a request for yet another rate increase this fall. This request totals $66.7 million or 5.9% over rates currently in effect. A rate rollback could weaken Puget's stance on the new rate increase despite the fact that the new costs are structural in nature (as explained in the article). Regardless of the outcome, management needs to restructure its priorities to better service its customers.

## Update on Conference of Progressive Groups

Theme: **Social Justice and Equality in Olympia:**
Local Struggles in a Global Context

Date: **October 8, 1994**

Time: **9 am – 5 pm**

Place: **United Churches**
11th and Capitol Way
Downtown Olympia

### Summary of purpose of conference:

- Encourage intercultural, international, intergenerational, empowerment, solidarity, and self-determination.
- Challenge marginalization of the young, poor, elderly, women, people of color, and sexual minorities.
- Challenge official discriminatory sanctions, e.g. against youth and the impoverished, police harassment, anti-panhandling ordinances, etc.

### Conference will be arranged around small group workshops. Ideas about topics for workshops:

- Homelessness/affordable housing
- Racism/local
- Building a progressive community
- Historical problems
- Public participation in technology/development policy
- Olympia's foreign policy
  - –Chiapas
  - –Santo Thomas
  - –Bosnia
  - –Central America
- Alternative Media
- Challenge City Government
  - Government
  - Local/Public
- Economic justice
- Effective connections to public policy decision making
- Poverty dynamic
- Opportunities for progress
  - pathways
- Role of the military in the post-cold war period
- Gender issues in Olympia
- Unconditional enfranchisement
- Olympia progressive yellow pages
  - –encourage each group to bring 100 copies of their brochure or one page (both sides if possible) of the organization's goals, objectives, how to contact, etc.

### Next meeting: August 30, 1994 Olympia Timberland Library Downtown Olympia

Contact numbers: Pat 705-2726
Peter 866-6000 x6431

# WORKS IN PROGRESS HISTORICAL CALENDAR

# ★★ SEPTEMBER 1994 ★★

*"I belong to a class which has been robbed, exploited and plundered down through many long centuries. And because I belong to that class, I have an impulse to go and help break the chains."*

**Mother Jones**

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Labor Day Beginnings**<br>Labor Day, observed on May 1st by most countries, is on the first Monday in September the United States.<br>The Knights of Labour in 1884 adopted a resolution and took the first steps to have it recognized as a holiday. Working people of all organizations aided in the movement.<br>Oregon, on Feb, 21, 1887, passed the first law recognizing the day. The U.S. Congress finally passed a bill making Labor Day a national legal holiday on June 28, 1894. | | September was the seventh month of the old Roman calendar<br>AUGUST<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 31<br>OCTOBER<br>S M T W T F S<br>1<br>2 3 4 5 6 7 8<br>9 10 11 12 13 14 15<br>16 17 18 19 20 21 22<br>23 24 25 26 27 28 29<br>30 31<br>○ full moon ● new moon | **1**<br>1878- First woman telephone operator, Emma Nutt, begins her first day working for Telephone Despatch Co. in Boston<br>1987- California: Protester Brian Wilson has legs severed by train carrying arms to Concord Naval Weapons Station | **2**<br>1921- Mineowners bomb W. Virginia strikers by plane<br>1957- Ark. Gov. orders national guard/state police to Central High to prevent integration<br>1963- Gov. Wallace stops integration at Tuskegee High by encircling building with state troopers | **3**<br>1910- Employers fire 50,000 striking dockworkers in Great Britain<br>1956- Ike warns southern whites they could lose rights by not protecting African-American rights<br>1973- Saigon imprisons heads of three unions |
| **4**<br>1886- Geronimo surrenders<br>1957- A crowd of jeering white men and women watched at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, as troopers bar nine African-American students from entering the building | **5** ●<br>LABOR DAY!<br>1882- 1st U.S. Labor Day parade held in NYC, 10,000 workers participated<br>1877- Crazy Horse killed in custody<br>1963- Alabama Gov. Wallace closes three schools scheduled for imminent integration | **6**<br>1865- Congressman Stevens urged confiscation of estates of Confederate leaders and the distribution of land to adult freedmen in 40-acre lots<br>1905- Roosevelt begins investigation of corruption in insurance industry | **7**<br>1955- Peru grants voting rights to women<br>1963- U.S. backed South Vietnam Pres. Diem arrests 800 high school students for demonstrating against his rule | **8**<br>1875- Mississippi request for federal troops to protect black voters denied, told "public tired of these annual autumnal outbreaks in South".<br>1965- UFW starts California grape boycott<br>1974- Ford pardons Nixon | **9**<br>1906- Clergy protest Bronx Zoo's display of "Pygmy" (human being!) in cage with apes<br>1963- South Vietnam Pres. Diem arrests 1,000 more students<br>1971- 6 Klansmen arrested for bombing ten school buses in Pontiac, MI | **10**<br>1907- Russian Jews massacred at Kishinev<br>1957- Bomb rips school in Nashville that admitted African-Americans |
| **11**<br>1962- 2 youths involved in voter registration derive in Miss were wounded by shotgun blasts<br>1973- U.S. backs successful coup in Chile, Presidential-elect Allende murdered | **12**<br>1932- Unemployed seize food in Toledo, OH<br>1958- Arkansas Gov. closes 4 Little Rock high schools to prevent integration<br>1966- Police allow mob to attack African-Americans integrating Grenada, MS schools | **13**<br>1663- First serious slave conspiracy in colonial America. Plot of white servants and slaves in Virginia was betrayed by an indentured servant | **14**<br>Margaret Sanger, born 1879<br>Kate Millett, born 1934 | **15**<br>1935- Hitler denies Jews: German citizenship, marriage or extra-marital relationships with German citizens, employing German women under 45, and raising the German flag (This flag fixation sounds familiar) | **16**<br>1810- Mexico Independence Day<br>1985- U.S. becomes a debtor nation<br>1986- 177 die in South African gold mine fire | **17**<br>1982- 100s of Palestinians in refugee camps in West Lebanon murdered by Christian militia. Most of those slain were unarmed, many elderly men, women and childern. |
| **18**<br>1850- U.S. Congress passes infamous Fugitive Slave Act<br>1909- Great Britain: 2 suffragettes sent to jail for throwing stones at Prime Minister<br>1986- Newark: Judge bars mandatory drug testing of federal employees | **19** ○<br>1885- Chinese coal miners driven out of Black diamond WA<br>1981- 300,000 demonstrators protest the social policies of the Reagan administration in Solidarity Day march on Washington, DC | **20**<br>1664- Maryland enacts law to prevent intermarriage of English women and black men<br>1962- James Meredith denied admission to U of Miss<br>1973- Billie Jean King bops Bobby Riggs in 3 straight sets | **21**<br>1896- Militia sent to Leadsville, Co. to break miners' strike<br>1958- Boston: Ted Williams hits woman in head with hurled bat after he struck out | **22**<br>1862- Emancipation Proclamation<br>1964- NY: 9 indicted for conspiring to arrange student tour of Cuba<br>1983- Sec. of Int. Watt apologizes for remark about "a black, a woman, two Jews and a cripple" | **23**<br>1950- Congress passes Internal Security Act, permits registraion of Communists and their internment in times of emergency<br>1981- 1971 presidential tapes link Nixon to plan to use Teamster "thugs" against war protesters | **24**<br>1934- Babe Ruth makes farewell appearance<br>1957- Eisenhower sent 1,000 Army paratroopers to Little Rock, AK to enforce desegregation of Central High School |
| **25**<br>1890- Congress establishes Yosemite Ñational Park<br>1921- First screening of Chaplin's "The Idle Class" | **26**<br>1903- Women get the vote in Connecticut<br>1939- U.S. begins purge of Communists holding government posts<br>1986- Reagan vetoes bill for sanctions on South Africa | **27**<br>1875- Striking textile workers demand bread for starving children in Fall River, Mass<br>1944- 1st Hanford Reactor began operation | **28**<br>1904- Woman arrested in New York for smoking cigarette on Fifth Avenue<br>1970- In Ohio, students burn draft cards in memorial at Kent State | **29**<br>1958- U.S. Supreme Court bans "evasive schemes" to thwart school integration<br>1986- House overrides Reagan's veto on South African sanctions | **30**<br>1750- Crispus Attucks escaped from his slaveholder in Mass.<br>1962- James Meredith escorted onto U of Miss campus by US Marshals and 3,000 federal troops. 2 men died in related mob violence | **Submissions**<br>If you want to call attention to a future or past event, please send necessary information to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia WA 98507, Atten: Calendar |

★ *There's no way like the American Way* ★

*Slogan from in the Great Depression used by a California business association to raise the hopes of Americans in spite of their economic situation*